

Games in Moscow; affirmation of solidarity with dissidents and minorities in the U.S.S.R.; and, again, an affirmation of Canada's strong continued support for international human rights and peace.

Briefly, I would like to confirm that the Canadian government not only has met and continues to meet its international obligations in all three parts of Senator Nurgitz's motion, but has also taken important initiatives and given strong leadership in these matters. Because of the excellent record of the Canadian government in that area of international concern, I think it is worthwhile to comment on it.

It was on April 22, precisely seven days ago, that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, condemned the U.S.S.R. invasion of Afghanistan. He stated that, after the fullest consultation with allies and friends, the Canadian government adopted a broad spectrum of measures (initiated under the previous government), such as the cancellation of visits by ministers and officials, and also halted a wide variety of exports and exchanges. On that day the minister also announced that the Canadian government had taken the decision to boycott the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow to demonstrate its opposition to the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. Also, he urged the Canadian Olympic Association to inform the organizing committee that Canadian athletes will not be participating in those Games. Last Sunday, by a majority vote, the Canadian Olympic Association supported the stand of the Canadian government.

The policy of the federal government is clear and strong in impressing upon the Soviet Union that international terrorism, in all of its manifestations, whether by armed students or disciplined troops, is unacceptable to Canada. This strong stand of the government is one of which I am sure we are all proud, and to which we give our fullest support.

It is despicable that the U.S.S.R. has used—indeed, has abused—the Olympic Games spirit by trying to politicize it and also by using it as an instrument to propagate its foreign policy. I should like to take this opportunity to commend our athletes for the great sacrifice they are making by refusing to go to Moscow. However, their investment of years of hard training should not be wasted. That is why I support all efforts by the governments of free countries and sports organizations of the world to organize alternative international games, which could be called, as Senator Nurgitz suggested the other day, the 1980 Freedom Games.

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I also commend the CBC for cancelling its coverage of the Games, because the Olympics are also a great media event. However, the Olympic boycott is a peaceful weapon of great impact, which should let the U.S.S.R. rulers and people know how much we cherish freedom and human rights.

With respect to the second part of the motion, the affirmation of solidarity with the dissidents and persecuted cultural and religious minorities in the U.S.S.R., evidence abounds that Canada has met its humanitarian obligations in this field with a fine record, and not mere rhetoric. The Canadian govern-

[Senator Haidasz.]

ment has—in some cases privately and, in others, publicly—made representations to other governments on these important matters. Furthermore, the government has made great efforts—and achieved substantial results, I am proud to say—particularly in the matter of reunification of families, mostly from Eastern European countries and the U.S.S.R.

I took part in discussions held by the present Prime Minister in Moscow that eventually made it possible for several hundred Jews to leave the U.S.S.R. and settle in Canada. Our government has had success in dealing bilaterally, and in the context of the Helsinki Final Act, with Eastern European countries and the U.S.S.R. in a wide range of humanitarian matters.

In 1977 and 1978, at the Belgrade Review Meeting of the Helsinki Final Act, following the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Canadian government representatives were most outspoken in exposing and condemning human rights violations in individual cases and in general. Moreover, the Canadian government has an enviable and impressive record of support for refugees and displaced persons from all areas of the world.

Since the Second World War, Canada has resettled more than 350,000 persecuted and displaced persons, and supported generously the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. Recently, new initiatives have been taken by the government, approving a special order in council allowing 2,300 refugees from Eastern Europe and self-exiled people from that area of the world to apply for admission to Canada in the recent fiscal year.

At international meetings, we have prodded, and continue to prod, the world community and individual countries to live by their commitments and fulfil their responsibilities to humanity.

I should also like to take this opportunity to deplore the persecution of all human rights activists, not only in the U.S.S.R., but in other countries as well. In particular, I commend all those parliaments and governments which have condemned the U.S.S.R. government for the arrest, degradation and internal exile of the eminent physicist and human rights activist and Nobel Peace Laureate, Dr. Andrei Sakharov. Dr. Sakharov has an immense following in Canada and, indeed, throughout Europe and other parts of the world. His forced exile is of extraordinary significance in that he has been the champion of human rights within the U.S.S.R. and has commanded a good deal of public attention. In taking action against Dr. Sakharov, the Soviet authorities have made it clear that their tolerance of dissent has come to an end, and that Dr. Sakharov, who carries the hopes of countless thousands both within the Soviet Union and outside it, can dissent no longer.

It is my hope that more governments and parliaments will insist that the Soviet government restore Dr. Sakharov's honours, and release him from his sentence of exile.

The third part of the motion calls upon the Government of Canada to affirm its strong continued support for international human rights and worldwide peace. As in the past, so today and, I am sure, in the future, the Canadian government will