

There is a danger of confusing the more aggressive Soviet communications policy with concrete, fundamental kinds of change. Certainly, the Soviet approach has had an impact on opinion in the West. We should welcome real change, but we should also ensure that Western nations present our side of any debate as aggressively as the Soviets present their side.

For example, in arms control and disarmament, the recent Soviet willingness to negotiate an agreement on intermediate range nuclear weapons simply means that the U.S.S.R. is ready to accept proposals that were made years ago by NATO countries.

In the same way, we welcomed the Soviet offer to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. But, when all was said and done, only 15,000 troops came out -- which left another 100,000 behind, roughly the same number that were involved in the invasion of Afghanistan almost eight years ago.

What is important is realism. There has been change. There may be more. It should be encouraged by Canada and other free societies.

We want to be sure the change is real before we celebrate -- and we must, throughout this period, maintain our own commitments to the values of free societies, and the means to keep the peace.

I am honoured to be with you today at this celebration. Nearly fifty years ago, my mother began her teaching career at Thorhild, and she considers the Ukrainian students she taught there among the best she met anywhere. All my life, it has been my privilege to work closely with Canadians of Ukrainian origin. Maureen and I had the privilege of visiting the beautiful city of Kiev two years ago -- where, Mr. Shumuk, we mentioned your name.

Ukrainians have contributed in every possible way to the life of this country. William Kurelek's paintings, the music of Steven Staryk or Donna Grescoe, the choreography of Natalka Dobrolige, the plays of George Ryga, the movies of Ivan Fecan -- all are deeply