

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 058

March 27, 1990.

CLARK URGES RESTRAINT BY SOVIETS IN LITHUANIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, called in the senior Soviet diplomat in Ottawa this morning to express personally his deep concern over the present situation in Lithuania. During the meeting Mr. Clark strongly underlined those points as set out in a formal letter sent to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, which was also delivered today.

In his letter to the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Clark stated that Canadians had been following recent events in Lithuania with growing apprehension. He emphasized that they were extremely concerned by the increase in military activity over the past few days.

Mr. Clark reminded Mr. Shevardnadze of repeated assurances the latter had given to both the Canadian government and international community that there would be no "crackdown" in the Baltic States. The Minister indicated to Mr. Shevardnadze that further interventions of this kind on the part of the Soviet authorities and military would certainly have regrettable repercussions on relations between Canada and the USSR.

In concluding his letter, Mr. Clark urged that a process of constructive and peaceful dialogue be established between Vilnius and Moscow leading to the establishment of a fundamentally new relationship, one which would reflect the legitimate aspirations of the Lithuanian people.