

SYNOPSIS

- The release of the Rabinovich family and their reunification with their family in Canada last Sunday is one sign of what can only be called a revolution sweeping Soviet society.
- It is one of the most important developments in the world today and has profound implications for Canada's relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
- The Soviet Union is now embarking on political, economic and legal reforms at home which will test this revolution.
- Gorbachev has also established new rules, goals and attitudes for Soviet foreign policy.
- Initiatives by the Western Alliance, and alliance solidarity, made it necessary, and possible, for the Soviet Union to change.
- Western proposals which were earlier rejected are now being advanced by Moscow as their own.
- Canada must continue to be guided by the combination of defence and dialogue which has served the NATO Alliance so well for 40 years and which helped create the incentive for Mr. Gorbachev's reforms.
- Is it in our interest to see Mr. Gorbachev succeed? The unequivocal answer is yes.
- Canada and the West have a large stake in Mr. Gorbachev's success. We must applaud his efforts, unequivocally state our support for his domestic goals and help Soviet citizens develop the self-confidence and self-worth crucial to the success of reform.
- We must capitalize on the extensive relationship which we already have with the Soviet Union in the cultural, scientific, environmental, humanitarian and business fields.
- The Prime Minister's trip to the Soviet Union this fall will be an important catalyst for advancing this multifaceted relationship.
- There are many risks ahead, for Mr. Gorbachev and for all of us. We must act with prudence and imagination, conscious of the probability that we are at a genuine watershed in modern history.