



# communiqué

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## RELEASE OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, issued the following statement:

"I welcome the release by the Soviet Union of the Jewish leader Anatoly Shcharansky. Several Canadians have impressed upon Soviet authorities Canadian concerns about the situation of Soviet Jews in general, and the fate of Anatoly Shcharansky in particular. I raised these matters directly with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and his successor, Eduard Shevardnadze, in April and July 1985. It is gratifying to know that the representations made over the years by many individuals and countries contributed to his release.

Today's event is viewed by the Government as a positive gesture by the Soviet Union. I hope the Soviet Government will now move toward releasing all Jews who wish to emigrate. This would contribute to better East/West trust and understanding and to the development of popular support for growth in our bilateral relations."