

which he was a Minister, were directed only at those who violate the laws of Canada. I would add that they should also be directed at those who counsel violation of our laws, directly or indirectly.

I said that the Government would be willing to provide briefings to Members of Parliament in camera. In that non-partisan spirit, I must say that the External Affairs critic of the New Democratic Party has approached us. We have agreed to provide him with such a briefing. That option is open to other interested Members.

The real problem here is that whatever we might wish, Canada is not immune to violence and to terrorism. There have been too many instances of terrorism in this country. We, as the Government, have the responsibility to respond with firmness, within the bounds and the laws of a free and multicultural society. We owe that to all Canadians, but we owe it particularly to the great majority of Canadians of Sikh origin who are not, in a situation in which excessive pressures exist, free to pursue their goals in accordance with the traditions which drew them and so many to this country.

Where we are not doing enough as Members of the House of Commons is in reaching out to encourage the moderate majority of the Sikh community in Canada to stand strong against the tiny minority who practice or counsel terrorism or violence. We are having a debate today. I suggest to all Members of the House that the best next step for all Members would be to ensure and encourage the freedom of Canadians of Sikh origin in this country to pursue their goals in Canada in accordance with their tradition and laws of this country.