

Secretary of State for External Affairs, I would be delinquent if I did not take account of the foreign policy implications, particularly for our relations with a friendly government on an issue which they regard as vital to their national integrity.

These activities also created deep concerns in Canada, particularly because the actions of a small minority are tearing the Canadian Sikh community apart. The point of concern and the reasons for sending my letter were activities within Canada. I act as a Canadian Minister in the interest of all Canadians.

As I said earlier, the activities of small group of Sikhs in Canada constitutes one of the most serious internal security threats which Canada faces today. A militant minority in Canada has, through violence and intimidation, been able to exert a disproportionate influence in the community of Sikh origin in Canada.

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Canadian Government to deal with the present situation so as to avoid any possibility of Canada becoming a centre of Sikh extremism.

Our most important initiative has been our attempt to express encouragement and support for moderate Sikhs who have decided to oppose the excesses of a militant minority that wants to wage, within our borders, a war that has its origins in another country.

Some have asked whether the Government has exercised its responsibility to warn public figures about other organizations in Canada. The answer is clearly yes, respecting the activities of groups which themselves, or through their members, are associated with violence or with the purpose of dismantling other friendly countries in Europe and elsewhere. I and my officials have received many inquiries from Members of Parliament and provincial governments about the nature and the objectives of groups which have requested meetings with public figures. We have provided the appropriate advice and have received cooperation in these instances.

The principle is the same. This is not a new policy. Other Canadian governments have adopted similar positions. I note the presence in the House of the Members for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan), the former Solicitor General. In addressing a comparable problem in 1984, he argued that acts of violence or terrorism in support of a free Armenia would not be tolerated in Canada and that this country should not become a surrogate battleground for alien causes. Rightly, he said that this would invite anarchy. He also said at the time that the efforts of the government of the day, the Liberal government in