

under those programs that had not taken place before the actions in Lithuania.

On January 15, this House passed a unanimous resolution condemning the brutal violence used against the people and democratically elected Government of Lithuania.

Saturday, I received a communication from the Soviet Ambassador giving the official explanation for the tragic events in Lithuania. The note rejected Moscow's responsibility for what happened blaming instead the Lithuanian leaders who were claimed to have held extremist positions. That, however, was before the equally tragic events in Riga yesterday.

No one knows if Mr. Gorbachev is still in charge or, more worrying, whether he remains committed to the reforms that began in his name. In his letter of January 13, the Prime Minister warned the Soviet President against the consequences of his present course. That letter remains unanswered, and tonight I would like to quote it and lay it on the table of Parliament.

The Prime Minister wrote:

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express the shock and abhorrence felt by all Canadians at the unwarranted violence used against the people and democratically elected Government of Lithuania.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs raised Canada's concerns with the Soviet Ambassador, January 11. Since then, Soviet military forces have been used against the institutions and citizens of Lithuania with resulting serious injuries and loss of life.

I deeply regret that these actions have taken place. They are contrary to the assurances Mr. Clark had received from Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and which you had explicitly repeated to me that there would be no crackdown in the Baltic States. I cannot stress to you strongly enough the importance of quickly and unequivocally condemning such behaviour.

You have accomplished a great deal in bringing new hope to your nation and the world. I appeal to you not to undermine this achievement but to show restraint in this increasingly dangerous situation so that further bloodshed can be averted. I urge you to seek negotiated solutions consistent with the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the legitimate aspirations of Lithuania and the other Baltic