

formal recognition.²⁰ The External Affairs Minister did meet with Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene during her visit on 30 April and 1 May, but in an unofficial capacity. Mrs. Prunskiene was seeking backing and international guarantees from the West for her country. Mr. Clark, emphasizing the multilateral aspects of resolving the conflict, stated that "Canada was prepared to look at whether or not we could contribute to those guarantees."²¹ He also offered the services of Canadian constitutional experts to help bring the crisis closer to a negotiated resolution.²²

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

The House of Commons has witnessed some degree of unanimity and all-party cooperation in dealing with this issue. For example, on 12 March, the day after the Lithuanian declaration of independence, an all-party resolution was passed, stating:

Be it resolved that this House recognize the legitimate right of the Lithuanian people, as expressed by their elected representatives on March 11, to declare the independence of the Republic of Lithuania.²³

Members from all sides of the House introduced petitions or statements supporting all three Baltic Republics.²⁴

On 22 November 1989, after reporting to the House on his Moscow trip, the Prime Minister was questioned on discussions regarding the Baltic. He told the House that he had brought up the issue and had received assurances from President Gorbachev that there would be no interference in the upcoming free elections in the Baltics.²⁵

²⁰ Tim Harper, *Toronto Star*, 5 April 1990, p. A3. Minister of Justice Kim Campbell went in his stead.

²¹ Bruce Ward, *Ottawa Citizen*, 1 May 1990, p. 1.

²² Charlotte Montgomery, *Globe and Mail*, 10 May 1990, p. A8.

²³ *Commons Debates*, 12 March 1990, p. 9088.

²⁴ *Commons Debates*, 6 March 1990, p. 8842; 14 March 1990, p. 9269; 27 March 1990, p. 9820; 27 March 1990, p. 9822; 29 March 1990, p. 9935; 3 April 1990, p. 10127; 4 April 1990, p. 10173; 7 May 1990, p. 11039; 30 May 1990, p. 12055; 7 June 1990, p. 12642; 26 June 1990, p. 13090.

²⁵ *Commons Debates*, 22 November 1989, p. 6262. For the December elections, see above.