

toward disrupting and subverting the civil and political process in India for the express purpose of establishing an independent Sikh state of Khalistan. Members of that organization have been involved in aircraft hijackings, political assassinations, and the random, indiscriminate killings of both Sikh moderates and Hindus.

Moreover, these two organizations have occasionally attempted to dupe Members of Parliament or public figures in Canada into supporting their cause, for example, by having them photographed under the Khalistan flag or wearing buttons indicating support for Khalistan.

These groups exist largely to promote the creation of an independent Sikh state known as Khalistan based on the Indian state of Punjab. In pursuit of that objective some members of that organization have used, counselled or promoted the use of violence.

The Canadian government cannot remain silent when individuals or organizations advocate the use of violence for political ends, namely, the dismemberment of another country with which we have a longstanding and friendly relationship. My letter, therefore, asked our provincial premiers to avoid appearing at organized events or activities which could inadvertently lend their endorsement to the separatist objectives of these groups.

My letter did not ask premiers to avoid receiving or meeting with any particular individuals, whatever views they may espouse. Even though this Government rejects their separatist cause, we fully recognize all Canadians right to freedom of expression. It is the attendance or participation by representatives of the Canadian people in events or functions sponsored by these three organizations about which I am concerned.

When political leaders openly associate with such groups, whether they intend to do so or not, they lend credence and support to the objectives for which those organizations stand. These organizations have in the past taken advantage of politicians attending their functions. I believe most Canadians would very strongly object and would want its government to object to another country's leaders giving support of any kind to anyone who promoted separatism in Canada, particularly through violent means. This Government would certainly press to have that country's government not give or even be seen to give any kind of support of such activities.

Naturally enough, such activities invite representations to the Government of Canada from the Government of India, just as Canada made representations to other countries in 1970 during the period of the FLQ. As the