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# Canadians frown on sanctions

By Allan McRae  
Southam News

OTTAWA – A majority of Canadians don't think economic sanctions should be used to protest the Soviet crackdown on Lithuania, an Angus Reid-Southam News poll shows.

The telephone poll of 1,507 Canadians found 51 per cent of respondents oppose sanctions. Thirty five per cent favour sanctions while 14 per cent did not know or wouldn't respond.

The majority of the poll, conducted between Jan. 16 and Jan. 21, was completed before Soviet troops shot and killed five Latvians in an attack on government buildings in the capital of Riga, but the poll was conducted after 14 Lithuanians were killed in a similar crackdown in Vilnius on Jan. 13.

After the second attack, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark announced that Canada had withdrawn offers to the Soviets of technical help and a \$150-million line of credit for food. He also said Canada would provide medical and other aid to the Baltic countries, which are trying to separate from the Soviet Union.

Pollster Angus Reid said the findings suggest Canadians "are willing to give (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev the benefit of the doubt."

He said the poll would likely hold up if it had been conducted after the crackdown in Latvia because Canadians aren't ready to end the goodwill relationship developed between the Soviet Union and the west since Gorbachev took power.

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