

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

The Honourable L'honorable
Bill Graham P.C., Q.C., M.P., c.p., c.r., député

FEB 10 2003

Mr. Mark Opashinov
President
Macedonian Human Rights Movement of Canada.
P.O. Box 44532, RPO Eglinton/Kennedy
Toronto, Ontario
M1K 5K3

Dear Mr. Opashinov:

Thank you for your letter of November 13, 2002, concerning the difficulties encountered by Canadians of Macedonian ethnic background in their dealings with Greek customs officials. I regret the delay in replying to you.

The essential problem is that all countries retain and exercise the right to determine who may enter their country and under what conditions. In situations where security is cited as a factor, whether rightly or wrongly, most countries are not willing to subject their procedures to prior negotiations with affected countries.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* does not guarantee the right of a Canadian to enter a foreign country. As you are aware, every country has in place various entry requirements, and these differentiate between foreigners on a wide variety of factors. Local authorities determine whether a dual national is allowed in the country of his birth based on these factors.

I appreciate the time that you have taken to write to me on his important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Graham".

Canada