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Obhrai joins Indian Prime Minister at Air India memorial Calls on Mulroney to apologize

(TORONTO, June 28, 2010) Today, Deepak Obhrai, Indo-Canadian MP from Calgary East, accompanied Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh when he visited the Air India Memorial in Toronto to pay respects to the victims of the 1985 bombing of Air India flight 182.

“It was a very touching and moving event. It meant a lot to Indo-Canadians and to the victims’ families,” Obhrai said.

Obhrai said : “Following Justice John Major’s report, which slammed the Canadian security establishment for their callous disregard for professionalism in the investigation of the tragedy as well as the treatment meted out to the victims’ families, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who called for the inquiry, appropriately apologized to victims’ families. His speech touched all Indo-Canadians.

“Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, when he called the Indian Prime Minister to convey condolences following the bombing of the flight, treated this as a non-Canadian tragedy. This set the official tone on this issue, which resulted in a totally unprofessional investigation and one that Indo-Canadians felt was based on a latent racist attitude.

“While Prime Minister Harper has justly apologized, Brian Mulroney should also apologize to the victims’ families,” Obhrai said.

Obhrai also said he was deeply disappointed with a recent statement made by CSIS director Richard Fadden claiming foreign governments were influencing Canadian politicians, identifying members of the ethnic community.

“As an Indo-Canadian Member of Parliament, I am astonished by these allegations made by the CSIS director. It casts aspersions on the integrity of MPs from other ethnic backgrounds and creates doubts in the minds of the public. We work hard to strengthen relationships between countries and are aware of our responsibilities, which are to our constituents, who are Canadians. “ Obhrai said.

These are Mr. Obhrai’s personal views.

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