

Canadian policy has been and is to do everything we possibly can to help avert a disaster, and bring about an end to apartheid, and the introduction of non-racial representative government. The Prime Minister and I have made it clear repeatedly that, if these efforts fail, we will end absolutely our diplomatic and economic relations with South Africa. Our policy has taken a number of forms: economic and other sanctions; diplomatic pressure; assistance to the opponents and victims of apartheid. I want to deal with each of those elements individually.

In terms of diplomatic relations, the choice is basic. Do we walk away in disgust, or try to use and build our influence, despite our profound disappointment? The powerful temptation is to walk away, to conclude that the South African regime is so profoundly anti-democratic that only violence will change it. Certainly the latest actions by the Pretoria Government carry South Africa away from any pretense of democracy as Western nations know it. South Africa's apologists claim their society is part of the West; if so, their actions now betray their heritage.

Some Members of the House call for the end now of diplomatic relations. I wonder, with respect, whether they have considered what that would mean.

For example, the South African Government has embarked upon an intensified campaign of censorship and propaganda designed to mask the reality of apartheid. Maintaining an Embassy in that country is, effectively, the only way in which we can continue to know what is really going on. There is a value to that, and a real cost if we close.

Again, a large part of our \$5 million aid program is delivered through the Embassy. Without representation on the ground, it would be much more difficult to identify, supervise and monitor projects which bring real help and visible support to the victims of apartheid. Literally hundreds of small people to people projects would be ended.