

Current Canadian Position

On 15 February 1985 the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, stated in the House that the Government was undertaking a complete review of Canadian policy towards South Africa. Two weeks later, in response to questions about the implementation of the Code of Conduct, Parliamentary Secretary Gerry Weiner agreed that "In the absence of an official monitoring mechanism, the code has not operated as effectively as had been hoped." With respect to the Government's meeting of 26 February with Zulu Chief Buthelezi, who was working with the South African Government, Mr. Weiner pointed out that "while Chief Buthelezi is not a guest of the Canadian Government, we are happy to take advantage of his presence in Ottawa to review the situation in his country with him." Mr. Weiner also noted that like Mr. Buthelezi "We, too, have reservations about the effectiveness of economic sanctions in fostering peaceful change and we are concerned about the effects they would have on the poorest segments of the South African population."³

On 21 March 1985 the House debated a motion introduced by an opposition MP calling on the Government to stop further Canadian investment in and further bank loans to South Africa, as well as the importation of Krugerrand coins into Canada. Speaking on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Weiner pointed out that "the Government is not convinced that the banning of new investment to South Africa by Canadian companies is the proper way to register our objection to apartheid."⁴ With regards to regulating the management practices and new investments of Canadian firms already operating in South Africa, Mr. Weiner commented:

Canada rejects the extraterritorial assertion of the laws of other countries that inter alia seek to direct

³ Commons Debates, 15 February 1985, p.2398; Commons Debates, 26 February 1985, p.2536.

⁴ Commons Debates, 21 March 1985, p.3271.