

APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—BRITISH POSITION ON IMPOSITION OF
SANCTIONS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Mrs. Thatcher is quoted as saying that she does not believe sanctions are any more likely to succeed now than before the raids. Given the leadership role played by the Prime Minister in the Commonwealth, and given the dangers to the Commonwealth posed by a failure on the part of Great Britain to act, has the Prime Minister been in contact with the Prime Minister of Great Britain within the last 48 hours to convince her to change her mind?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of Mrs. Thatcher's point of view with regard to sanctions. It is not one that I share. It is one that she has explained and defended. I understand her point of view, but I believe that the Commonwealth is inclined to come to another point of view in the event of a failure of the Eminent Persons Group mission. We believe there is still a possibility for success. I will be meeting with the Archbishop on Friday in this regard. Pending that, Canada will continue to seek further information. However, we have not moved from the position set out by the Secretary of State last autumn with regard to the ultimate action that Canada will take if we are incapable of persuading South Africa to rid itself or rid the world of the evil of apartheid.

THREAT TO COMMONWEALTH

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Given the threat to the very existence of the Commonwealth which this situation poses, how can the Prime Minister explain not even having made the attempt to contact Mrs. Thatcher to convince her to change her mind?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member, who has a genuine interest in this question, was absent from the House earlier when I indicated that I had met yesterday with the High Commissioners of various country members of the Commonwealth, including Great Britain. While there was disagreement in that room, naturally, about the measures which should be taken now, there was general agreement about the importance of maintaining the integrity and the strength of the Commonwealth as an institution. That is a position which we are pursuing. That is a position which the Prime Minister advanced materially in his call yesterday to Mr. Kuanda, to indicate the continuing solidarity of Canada with the citizens of Commonwealth countries which were attacked, and our continuing determination to play a leadership role in any way we can—our sanctions if necessary, and working in the Commonwealth, if that will work, to bring an end to apartheid.

Petitions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

HAITI—FREE ELECTIONS—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke—Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. With Canada's reputation for conducting fair and free elections, and with a number of Canadians having acted as observers of elections in foreign countries, could the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicate what initiatives he is taking to export democracy and, in particular, whether he has had any discussions with the Government of Haiti in respect to its objective of developing free elections in that country?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have indicated publicly our—

Ms. Copps: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): It may be that the Hon. Member for Hamilton East is not interested in the help which Canada might bring to Haiti. However, I think there are other members in the House, and I would have no doubt citizens in her constituency, who—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I cannot allow that.

Mr. Ouellet: Imputing motive. Withdraw.

Mr. Axworthy: How do you withdraw pomposity?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Right Hon. Minister knows why I must interrupt at that point. Order, please. Three o'clock.

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● (1500)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DESIGNATION OF ALLOTTED DAY

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order today to designate Friday as an allotted day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table in both official languages