

Oral Questions

Will the Minister now in these circumstances amend the employment equity legislation to cover all federal government Departments so they will have the same requirements as the private sector even though she is not enforcing them against the private sector?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, the Government introduced a measure that had never existed before. I am referring to our Government, the one I represent. We submitted a report. Progress has been made but there is room for improvement. Sanctions have been imposed on companies that failed to comply with the legislation, and of course we intend to comply with the legislation and enforce it.

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[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NAMIBIA—ACTIONS OF UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who until now seems to have accepted the South African version of the bloody slaughter in Namibia. Is the Secretary of State now prepared to admit that the South African story was too hastily and tragically accepted by a UN contingent because the actions of the Security Council, of which Canada is a member, were too inadequate, too badly organized, too badly led, and too badly intimidated to act effectively?

Will he also admit that the process in Namibia has from the beginning been flawed in allowing the South African Government to manipulate events down there? Is it not about time something was done to straighten up that mess?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Hon. Member's rhetoric gets ahead of the facts. He is asking this House to suggest that the Namibia peace plan, which I had thought we all hoped would succeed, is a fraud. I do not regard it as a fraud.

Mr. Riis: He did not say that.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I regard it to be something that is very gravely threatened now by events in southern Africa. It seems to me that it is the job of this country, and it should be the determination of Members of the House, to do everything we can to ensure that all parties—SWAPO, South Africa, and anyone else involved—respect the agreement so that we can get on with keeping peace in Namibia and in southern Africa. That is what we are trying to do. I had hoped that we would have the co-operation of the Hon. Member in doing that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROLE OF CANADA IN SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Lake St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs dishonours himself and this House by using words that I did not use.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCurdy: The Speaker will know that this Government abdicated its responsibility as a member of the contact group, allowed the UN Council on Namibia to be excluded from the peace process, and was a participant when inadequate troops on behalf of the peace-keeping forces of the United Nations were sent to South Africa. My question to him is simple and straightforward.

Is the Secretary of State prepared to act in the Security Council to ensure that the peace accord, including the elections, is fairly and equitably implemented? In particular, will he demand and assist the rapid deployment of the 7,500-person peace force that was supposed to have been sent there rather than the 4,500 that are not there yet?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I misquoted the Hon. Member I will certainly apologize for that. The record will show whether in fact he called the peace plan in Namibia a fraud or not. There were problems with the development—

Some Hon. Members: Flawed!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): There were problems, Mr. Speaker, with the development of that process. Those were problems that Canada acted on very vigorously at the time to try to resolve. Among the ways in which the problems involving the setting up of UNTAG was resolved was to get an agreement—and Canada was instrumental in getting that agreement—that the Secretary General, if he believed it was necessary, could recommend to the Security Council that there be an