

Oral Questions

necessary. For example, with regard to krugerrands the voluntary measures that were introduced by the Government of Canada have proven to be 100 per cent effective. With regard to the other question, the Hon. Member who has, I know, a genuine interest in this matter, asked if we would consider it. Yes, we will consider it. We will consider it along with other measures. We will consider it along with our partners in the Commonwealth, and we will consider it always against the standard of what will continue to be the most effective way for Canada to help bring an end to the evil of apartheid.

PREPARATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN AUGUST

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell the House what instructions are being given to Bernard Wood who, I understand, will travel immediately to meet representatives of other Commonwealth countries to prepare for the meeting in August? Will the Government instruct Bernard Wood to ask of other Commonwealth countries that there be a ban on all new investment in South Africa and a ban on South African air landing rights in all Commonwealth countries?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the exact date of departure for Mr. Wood has not yet been established. I am sure Hon. Members in the House will share the appreciation of the Government that Mr. Wood has agreed to undertake this further task. He will be visiting Zimbabwe and Zambia. We will announce other countries and leaders that he will be visiting as that is confirmed, and the exact terms of instruction will be clarified as he leaves. The point that we want Mr. Wood to convey is that Canada believes that, while the unity of the Commonwealth is very important at all times, in this instance what Canada is seeking from the Commonwealth is a combination of unity and forward movement against apartheid.

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who I do believe, on behalf of the Canadian Government, has taken steps far greater than previous Governments ever did.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Jewett: In the Minister's statement this morning there was no sense of urgency even though since report of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group came down a brutal state of emergency has been declared in South Africa. The South African Government has absolutely ignored the report, slighted the Eminent Persons Group, and instituted a state of emergency.

In light of the developments yesterday and today in South Africa, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs now consider whether to extend his statement of this morning to bring about full economic sanctions?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, those actions in South Africa were brutal and they were wrong. They add one more indication of the intransigence of the Government of South Africa. The question of the Hon. Member is whether we will extend that statement now. The answer to that briefly is, no, we will not extend it now. We want to see if we can work with other members of the Commonwealth and other countries some of whom, in the nature of things because of the size of their trade, have a greater impact on South Africa than we might have alone. We want to see if we can continue to use the good offices and the leadership of Canada, demonstrating our willingness to move to cause others to move, so that instead of simply expressing our outrage we may be able to achieve change in an evil system.

TIMING OF COMMONWEALTH MEETING

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth in the Foreword to the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group Report said:

—“sanctions and peace for South Africa have now become one and the same.”

● (1425)

Since the Government has already taken some initiatives would it at least, for example, ban all agricultural imports, which constitute about half of our imports from South Africa? Since the Secretary General says the meeting of the Group of Seven cannot be brought forward, would the Government take the initiative of having the Group of Seven meet within the next two weeks, preferably in London?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am assuming that the difficulty which the Commonwealth Secretariat reported had to do with the schedules of seven busy Leaders of Governments and that it was not at all an unwillingness on the part of the Commonwealth Secretariat to convene the meeting. I doubt that it would be possible for anyone else to convene more quickly a meeting which Mr. Ramphal believes cannot be convened before early August.

I make the point through you, Mr. Speaker, to the House that while the Secretary General used the word “sanctions” the eminent persons themselves were very careful to use the language “economic measures”. I think that might have been part of the reason the report was unanimous. I think it very important that the report was unanimous and signed by, among others, Lord Barber, the British representative.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS—REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MEET BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister would also address the agricultural imports question. If the Group of Seven cannot get together, would the Prime Minister consider taking the initiative, rather than waiting until the Prime Minister of