

That was what the Prime Minister said to the United Nations four years ago.

At the Commonwealth Conference in Malaysia next week, does the Prime Minister finally intend to honour his word and to indicate that Canada really will invoke total sanctions against South Africa? Will he use the influence of his office and Canadian public opinion to persuade other Commonwealth leaders, including Prime Minister Thatcher to the same thing? Is four years not long enough for the Prime Minister to keep his word?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think leaders of the front-line states, for example, would be somewhat surprised by the question of my right hon. friend because there is general recognition in the Commonwealth, particularly in the front-line states but also in many areas of the industrialized world, that the Commonwealth and Canada have provided very vigorous leadership in the fight against apartheid which began in earnest some four or five years ago.

Canada has taken some 50 initiatives, many of which have been followed by other industrialized nations. We are satisfied that the growing impact of these sanctions and policies has had a beneficial effect on developments in southern Africa: the results in Namibia, the developments in Angola, the election of President de Klerk and his recent visit to Zambia which would have been absolutely inconceivable some two or three years ago, his statements on the record of his desire to bring about fundamental change. All of this means for us that we have to maintain the pressure that Canada initiated, along with others, in the Commonwealth some four or five years ago.

I take the comments of my right hon. friend as an encouragement to intensify the procedures and the policies adopted by this government some five years ago to bring about desired change in South Africa.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, also on the record four years ago before the United Nations are the words "dismantling of apartheid" and "our relations may be severed absolutely". I note with concern the government's change in vocabulary in recent weeks. The government used to talk about abolishing apartheid, now it talks about reforming it. With great respect, no blacks

were allowed to vote in the last South African general election.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, about the meeting of Commonwealth heads of government, I would like to get back to the question already before the House, the issue of China. Following the Beijing massacres, the Government declared that we could no longer act as if nothing had happened. However, on September 26, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, speaking on behalf of Canada, made his comprehensive speech before the annual United Nations general Assembly, and failed to say anything about China, not a word!

Could the Prime Minister explain this flagrant omission? Can we act as though nothing happened in China? Has our policy changed since the House passed a unanimous resolution condemning the events in China? Will the Prime Minister respond to the wishes of Parliament and table a resolution at the Commonwealth conference, demanding collective action against China?

• (1420)

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since the events, Canada's policy towards China has been to take a severe approach entirely appropriate to the circumstances. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has in no way departed from this policy which arose from the Chinese Government's brutal treatment of its people a few months ago.

In the House, the Minister stated clearly what our policy would be, a policy that is basically similar to that adopted by many large industrialized countries, and we have been consistent in implementing that policy. We wanted to send a clear message to the Chinese government, but on the other hand, we also wanted to maintain our links with the Chinese people, because all Canadians will benefit from maintaining the bridge that exists between the Chinese people and the Canadian people.

So that is the challenge we had to face, and I think we have faced this challenge successfully, in the interests of all Canadians.

[*English*]

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, in response to an overwhelming expression of Canadian opinion reflected in the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State undertook to us and to Canadians that there would not be business as