

*Adjournment Debate*

the days of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker who, in 1961 during a Commonwealth Conference, initiated a proposal for a joint communiqué saying that apartheid ran against the ideals of the alliance. At that time South Africa had just become a republic and was applying to become a member. However, it withdrew the request since it did not want to comply. Subsequently Canada has continued to put pressure on the regime through the auspices of the United Nations.

Recently Canada's role of leadership within the Commonwealth regarding this issue was reasserted. During the Summit in London last August, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) again made clear our country's repugnance toward apartheid and explained the purpose of our limited sanctions. During his most recent trip through the front line states, the Prime Minister further reiterated our commitment not just toward fighting apartheid but also toward helping the citizens most adversely affected by it. Canada has tried to give support, for instance, in the form of education and training to those who advocate peaceful change.

There is no doubt sanctions can and do serve an important symbolic purpose by making a statement both to the South African Government and to other nations that we take the problem seriously. By the same token, this does not mean that such a course should be taken to its extreme, aside from the fact that we may be harming economically the very people we are trying to help.

In addition to calls for the rupture of commercial relations, there have been outcries to do likewise on the diplomatic front. In response, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said:

If we eventually decided to cut all our trade and diplomatic relations, we would have to recognize that whatever leverage we had in the situation would also end.

This is precisely the point. Channels of communication and mechanisms for encouraging positive action and reform are absolutely crucial.

One must also consider innovative means. The Prime Minister has taken a unique step by agreeing to talk to the representatives of the African National Congress, an anti-apartheid group which has been associated with violence and terrorism, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated the following:

We have to face some decisions as to whether or not we would associate with groups such as the ANC that are still involved in violence. We have had to take the decision, and it is a new one that had not been taken by Canadian governments before, that we would in fact deal with the ANC because they are going to be part of the solution in South Africa whenever it comes and however it comes. We believe there is a greater chance of contributing to a more peaceful solution more quickly working with them than not.

• (1830)

By the same token, negotiations and discussion with the ruling regime, for instance, in the form of official visits are also being considered. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out at the human rights committee meeting regarding the value of visits:

I think it is not a very helpful attitude for someone to assume that he is going to be shown a false picture and consequently not go. If we all made that assumption, none of us would ever go anywhere, and none of us would ever learn anything.

At the same time, any new knowledge or understanding of the problem could be helpful toward the remedy. Unfortunately, considering how deeply apartheid has been entrenched, it is obvious that an immediate solution is not possible. Rupturing all links with the regime, however strongly we disagree with its policies, would only amount to a fatalist statement of disapproval. That is not enough. What is worse, the resulting instability may provoke violence as well as communist intervention. The Soviet Union tends to be quite opportunistic under precisely such circumstances. Given that Canada can and does have influence in the region, in concert with other nations, we must not allow that to happen.

At the same time, by maintaining our balanced and open-minded approach, we must actively and constructively seek ways to pressure the South African Government to dismantle the monster of apartheid. Last evening, the Prime Minister announced a plan in a television appearance whereby the seven major industrialized countries would form a new eminent persons group to press for an end to apartheid in South Africa. The Prime Minister intends to present this plan during a meeting in Venice in June of this year. I applaud this new initiative toward constructive dialogue with the leaders of the seven largest industrialized countries and the leaders of South Africa.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, while maintaining pressure on South Africa to make fundamental changes in its racist system, Canadian policy emphasizes the importance of dialogue between the Government and Opposition. To that end, we are keeping open lines of communication to all groups in South Africa. There is a channel for contact with the South African Government through the Canadian Embassy in South Africa and the South African Embassy here in Canada.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has indicated that he would be prepared to visit South Africa if it would serve a constructive purpose towards bringing an end to apartheid. There has not been any evidence to date, however, that the South African Government has changed its position since it rejected the negotiating concept put forward by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group 10 months ago and gave no satisfaction to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary when he went there last summer. The Botha Government is not prepared to enter into constructive dialogue with authentic black leaders leading to the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial and representative government.

In the Government's view, the African National Congress will be part of the solution in South Africa, however and whenever that comes about. Both the Prime Minister (Mr.