

Apartheid

In Nassau, in 1985, the Commonwealth heads of government identified five criteria by which South Africa would be judged. The authorities must declare that apartheid will be dismantled and take specific and meaningful action to do so. They must terminate the existing state of emergency. All those imprisoned and detained for their opposition to apartheid, including Nelson Mandela, must be released unconditionally. The political bans on the ANC and other political Parties must be lifted. Finally, in the conditions these actions would create, and in the context of a suspension of violence, a process of dialogue must be initiated across lines of colour, politics and religion, with a view to establishing a non-racial and representative government.

Action towards satisfying these five conditions are the criteria of progress and the test of any claims by the Government of South Africa that it is serious about reform. While I am aware of the major problems that can occur as they proceed towards dismantling apartheid, I am concerned that some regard as substantial movement the minor tinkering which has so far taken place. The basic realities of the situation in South Africa are so stark, however, and the fundamental injustices so clear, that I am confident Canadians will continue to demand a policy in South Africa which reflects Canadian values.

Now is the time for the Government of South Africa to act to bring about a peaceful settlement. Progress remains possible while there remains some willingness to compromise. If more time is lost, inevitably the passions of racial hatred will continue to grow and the future of South Africa may be too grotesque to contemplate. The goal of Canadian policy must be to continue to press for real reform and real negotiations now, while a prosperous, humane and just South Africa remains an attainable goal.

Mr. Brian White (Dauphin—Swan River): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes remaining I would like to make some comments about Motion No. 89 moved by the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson).

The Government of Canada's policy on South Africa is to do everything possible to help avert a disaster. South Africa is a bitterly divided and violent country which risks a devastating conflagration. The security clamp-down on the vast majority of the people, the inequalities based on race, and the refusal by the Government of South Africa to accept the requirement for fundamental change, have created hardship, disaffection and discontent. If not positively dealt with, the frustrations arising from these conditions will sooner or later spill over again into ever escalating violence.

Canada has been at the forefront of international efforts to pressure South Africa to change course and chart a new future in which all South Africans can play a full role in the nation's social, economic and political life. It is a new future that will also allow Namibia its rightful independence, and South Africa's neighbours a chance to develop unhindered by South African military and economic destabilization.

To impress upon South Africa our conviction that real progress must be made urgently in achieving fundamental change, we have imposed a series of strong economic and other sanctions unilaterally and in concert with the Commonwealth and the UN. These measures are important and they are working. They are also a concrete expression of Canada's strong condemnation of the system of apartheid and the repressive actions taken to maintain that system. Those actions include the imposition of Draconian additional restrictions on the peaceful activities of anti-apartheid organizations and individuals, introduction of legislation that could restrict foreign funding of anti-apartheid activities, detention without trial of thousands of South Africans for their opposition to apartheid, and the increasingly repressive censorship regulations.

Equally important in Canada's policy are positive measures which we take to assist the victims and opponents of apartheid. Programs to provide support, both psychological and material, to help overcome additional suffering imposed on those who dare to speak out and try to bring about change, are essential for humanitarian reasons. Even more important, they are a practical demonstration to those involved in the struggle to change South Africa that the world supports their cause and cares about their faith.

I see the time has expired, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

• (1800)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1), the Order is dropped from the Order Paper.

Pursuant to an order made earlier this day, the House will now resume consideration of third reading of Bill C-89, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (victims of crime).

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hnatyshyn that Bill C-89, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (victims of crime), be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to comment on this important piece of legislation before the House. Before I get into the text of my speech I want to comment on today's process. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) was very gracious in his comments. He indicated at the outset that he appreciated the co-operation which the opposition Parties had given him and the Government in the development of this Bill. Today we are debating