

*Oral Questions*

street on this "sensitive" issue, and then in the same breath accuse the Secretary of State for External Affairs of taking cheap political shots. Surely nothing could discredit the Right Hon. Leader's thesis more than the manner in which he has just set it out. It should be evident to him and to members of his Party that in a number of areas, including this very sensitive area, the leadership provided by the Secretary of State for External Affairs is well known here and around the world. I think the right hon. gentleman should be applauding that fact.

With regard to what we are trying to accomplish, it is what the Secretary of State set out yesterday. There has been no change from the position that I set out on behalf of the Government to the United Nations. There has been no wavering in our commitment to attempt to secure the lessening and the ultimate removal of the system of apartheid in South Africa.

We provided a leadership role, to some modest extent, in Nassau and in London. The Secretary of State has just returned from southern Africa. I think it is a comment on the effectiveness of Canada that, within the space of 24 hours, the Secretary of State for External Affairs was able to meet with leaders of the frontline states, leaders of the ANC, and the leadership of the Government in Pretoria, seeking a constructive solution. Everyone acknowledges that a negotiated solution would, of course, be the best.

In the absence of that, and if we are unable to persuade Pretoria of that, Canada shall not hesitate to implement fully the sanctions and the attitudes that I expressed at the United Nations. I think that is an honourable course for Canada to pursue.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's commitment on behalf of the country before the leading forum of the world, the United Nations, two years ago was that if the situation continued to deteriorate he would lead the country into total economic sanctions against South Africa and a breach of diplomatic relations.

Now, two years later, there seems to be a backing off from that position by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Prime Minister will have an admirable opportunity in Vancouver to exercise the leadership role that his rhetoric seemed to symbolize two years ago. Is that his position now? Is that the position that he will advance in Vancouver in order to give some credence to the words he uttered before the United Nations on behalf of our country two years ago?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my recollection of the statement to the United Nations was that, indeed, in the absence of progress, that relationship "I think may have to be severed". That is still very

strongly our position. We have taken just about—and I may be wrong—every conceivable sanction that a western Government can take or has taken. We are interested in applying further sanctions.

Our view is not that sanctions do not work; our view is that if all countries applied sanctions as effectively and vigorously as Canada there would be more movement in South Africa. We would like to take that attitude, together with any other instruments that would be designed to provoke beneficial change in South Africa.

● (1425)

That is the position that the leadership of Canada will attempt to bring about at the Commonwealth Conference in Vancouver; most recently at *La Francophonie* in Quebec City there was a little further progress. Constant efforts and movement by countries such as Canada toward the solution that we all seek, from all corners in this House, will be beneficial to the people of South Africa, particularly those people in South Africa who have been deprived of their most fundamental rights for so long.

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## IMMIGRATION

## GRANTING OF IMMIGRANT STATUS

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and it concerns the Grossmann affair.

In the House yesterday in response to my question, the Minister of State for Immigration stated:

There was never any involvement by the Prime Minister's Office in that particular dossier or in any dossier.

However, *The Globe and Mail* has obtained a letter dated January 16 from the Prime Minister's special assistant to the office of the Minister, and an additional June 3 memorandum from the Deputy Minister's office which states, "that the Prime Minister's Office requests facilitation in getting Mr. Grossmann's family landed status."

I wish to ask the Prime Minister very directly and simply, will he categorically confirm or deny his involvement in the Grossmann file? Does he not think it is high time that he break his silence on this issue, rather than passing notes to his junior Minister?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** For those who were not here yesterday let me make it perfectly clear—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We did not miss much.

**Mr. Weiner:** There were some who were not here—there was no involvement. Here are the facts. The Member refers to