

Conservative member Andrew Witer questioned the Government's decision to lift sanctions against the Soviet Union while imposing them on South Africa. He wondered "why sanctions against South Africa work, while they apparently do not work against the Soviet Union?"<sup>11</sup> On 27 January 1987 he cited human rights abuses committed by Soviet forces in Afghanistan, and said that "the time for questioning the effectiveness of sanctions has passed. Canada has a duty and responsibility to uphold sanctions until such time as the Soviets cease their illegal occupation of Afghanistan."<sup>12</sup>

In response, Mr. J. M. Forrestall, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, observed that many of these sanctions, while initially galvanizing world opinion against the Soviet intervention, "could only be temporary since high-level dialogue, wider contacts and greater cooperation are all necessary in order to develop more secure and broadly-based East-West relations."<sup>13</sup> He also stated that by renewing academic, scientific, and cultural exchanges, Canada was finally adopting policies similar to its NATO allies, many of whom had not imposed such sanctions on the Soviet Union.<sup>14</sup>

### Current References

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Victor, J-C., "Afghanistan: A Protracted Conflict", Bulletin of Peace Proposals, August 1986, 437-446.

<sup>11</sup> Commons Debates, 21 Nov. 1986, p. 1404.

<sup>12</sup> Commons Debates, 27 Jan. 1986, p. 2765.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.