

indicated that Canada no longer feels it is committed to seeking further sanctions. I will direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

In light of the comments by the Foreign Secretary and those of his own Secretary of State for External Affairs, if the Commonwealth countries do not agree on further sanctions, will Canada make it known at that time that, in accordance with the Prime Minister's commitments to the United Nations two years ago, Canada, if need be, will act on its own?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to quotations attributed to me. I do not know where they appeared, but they are false. I did not say or imply that, nor did the Prime Minister, and that is not our position.

I think it is important to reiterate the position of the Government of Canada which has been very consistent on this issue. We are prepared, if necessary, if other measures do not succeed, to disrupt, to end, economic and diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa.

It should be understood that to do that would take us out of influence on the pressures to try to bring an end to apartheid. We do not think it is yet the time for Canada to take itself out of influence on ending apartheid. Quite the contrary, we believe there is a very important role that we can play as we have, under the Prime Minister's leadership, already played in the Commonwealth and as we intend to play in the Commonwealth and elsewhere to hasten the end to the regime of apartheid.

CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he explain when is the time? Two years ago the Commonwealth Conference sent eminent persons to South Africa. Canada indicated at that time that it would sever all diplomatic and economic relations if other measures did not work.

The imprisonments continue in South Africa. Nelson Mandela is still in prison. There is continuing police brutality. Censorship has been gravely increased in South Africa over the course of the last year. There have been continuing attacks on the front line states.

When is the time for the Government to do what it said it would do, and stop acting like a patsy toward South Africa?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, several months ago some spokesmen of the New Democratic Party, albeit not the official spokesmen, suggested that we should then completely disrupt relations with South Africa. Had we done that we would not have been

able to persuade the Commonwealth to take the series of sanctions which the Commonwealth agreed to take during the meeting in London last August. There is a price to pay for declaratory diplomacy of that kind. The price to pay is that you make your views known but you lose your influence.

It is not enough simply to condemn apartheid. We all condemn apartheid. We want to end apartheid. We believe that there are practical steps that Canada can continue to take to bring an end to apartheid.

I have noticed that on a range of questions the position of the New Democratic Party is to get out of the field. That is what they want to do with NATO. That is what one of their spokesmen wants to do with regard to economic summits. They are now saying that we should no longer seek to have influence upon bringing an end to apartheid in South Africa.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, in September, 1985, the Minister promised full disruption of economic and diplomatic relations to end apartheid if other measures did not work. This was repeated by the Prime Minister in June, 1986. This was repeated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs as recently as August 28, 1987. If we keep on saying these things and not acting, they will be empty threats.

I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. When the Government met with Mr. Tambo ten days ago, why did it focus on what it perceived as weaknesses in the African National Congress rather than talking about the real root of violence in South Africa, which is apartheid?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party is again expressing the isolationism which informs its policy on NATO, which leads it to want to get out of the economic summit, and which informs its policy on other international questions.

It is now suggesting that Canada has had no influence in the actions that we have taken, in the long list of sanctions that we have introduced, and in the influence that we have been able to bring to bear upon the actions of the European Community, the United States, Japan and others. That is a false accusation by the New Democratic Party.

We are not making nearly enough progress against apartheid in South Africa. The situation is getting worse. The depth of fear separating the black and the white communities is devastatingly deep. We must find some ways to bridge that gap. We do not do it by quitting, which is what the Hon. Member is suggesting.