

Oral Questions

Africa, by condoning the participation of South African individuals in sporting events if they were not purporting to represent their country.

The Government knows well that in the real world these athletes do represent their country. Last night it was reported that the Minister of State for Amateur Sports was asking Tennis Canada to ask the athletes to withdraw voluntarily from the tournament. I ask the Government directly to change its 1985 policy and make it clear that South African individuals and teams are not welcome in Canada, and to take steps to ensure that these athletes will not participate in the Player's Tennis Tournament in August.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I believe the House is well aware of the position of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Prime Minister, and the Government on the system of apartheid in South Africa, and of the many steps we have taken in the last four years to show our abhorrence of that system. They are steps that were not taken by the predecessor Government which we never heard from in that context when it was in power.

With respect to the particular tennis question, our policy on sporting contacts with South Africa accords with the 1977 Gleneagles Agreement between the Commonwealth heads of Government, and the 1982 Code of Conduct adopted by the Commonwealth Games Federation in Brisbane.

In addition, the Secretary of State for External Affairs initiated a review of these policies several weeks ago. That review is under way now. Changes will be made that we are sure will more than suit what is needed in the near future.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): But if the Government really wants to prevent these South Africans from participating, why does it do so indirectly behind the scenes, as was reported last night? Why not go about it directly? Is the Government at last afraid of South Africa?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, that question is so jejune, so feeble that it does not require any answer. The Secretary of State for External Affairs was Chairman of the Commonwealth Committee on this subject. The Prime Minister's record at the Commonwealth and other conferences has been outstanding in this area. I am not going to get disturbed or cross at such a weak-kneed suggestion.

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Secretary of State Department and Official Languages. The Minister has just signed agreements to promote official languages with Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. I would like to ask the Minister if he is prepared to sign similar agreements with other Canadian provinces, like Alberta, Ontario or even Quebec?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, we have indeed negotiated and concluded agreements with Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan in an effective and favourable manner, I believe; these agreements will certainly benefit the francophone minorities. We are now negotiating other agreements, in particular a subsidiary agreement on community colleges with New Brunswick and an agreement on health and social services with Quebec. We are also holding discussions with the Government of Alberta. In the next few days, I will meet the Education Minister of that province and I am confident that by using the co-operative, dynamic, open-minded approach we used recently in other cases, we can negotiate an extremely satisfactory agreement with that province to provide real benefits, especially in the field of education, for francophones in that province.

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● (1450)

[English]

APARTHEID

SPORTS—CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed once again to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the selective application of the Gleneagles Agreement by this Government which allows two tennis players to come into the country because they are entrepreneurs, but prevents the provision of a visa to a black South African softball player who is not even here to play softball. Will this Government act, as it has so far failed to act, and implement the Gleneagles Agreement, with a complete ban of all involvement of Canadian athletes, in Canada or outside, with South African athletes, black or white?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, and repetition cannot change the facts, we have adopted and followed the Gleneagles policy. The difference between the tennis players and the other gentleman referred to by the Hon. Member is that one is an official representative and therefore comes clearly under the