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And I mean I was in Harare with Prime Minister and his group for the Commonwealth heads of government, we were there nearly a week. I headed the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Committee on apartheid in South Africa. I met...one of the first guests we had in Ottawa was the president of the African Development Bank who works very closely with our aid people and our trade people and we're trying to help build up some commercial links as well as aid links.

Q: Canada is sort of ranked as a middle power and has been relatively influential in conserving its economic clout or population clout if you like. If Canada was to split with Quebec falling off and this seems to be backing off, they seem to be backing away from this somewhat, what would it mean for your job?

MCDUGALL: Well first of all that's not going to happen, I mean or it will happen over my dead body and the dead body of the Prime Minister. It is not in anyone's interest that this country split apart including the people of Quebec. And you may have seen and heard lately that a lot of the messages that we are delivering across Canada are much tougher than they were. Around what this means for the economic future of Canada, let alone the foreign policy future, our influence in the world would clearly disappear but it would not be a friendly parting. I mean there've been a lot of assumptions in Canada that you can just split up a country and I think once again the Soviet experience is going to be instructive for Canadians in general, but I would include Quebecers in that.

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