South African Government rejected a proposal to hold multi-racial elections for a local parliament in Natal.

On 20 February 1987 the United States and Great Britain vetoed a resolution in the Security Council of the United Nations which would have imposed sanctions on South Africa similar to those approved by the US Congress. Ten countries voted in favour of the resolution, while France and Japan abstained. Parliamentary elections in May for the white chamber returned Botha's National Party to power and gave the pro-apartheid Conservatives twenty extra seats which were lost by the Progressive Liberals.

Canada has opposed apartheid since Prime Minister Diefenbaker participated in the expulsion of South Africa from the Commonwealth in 1961. Government support for bilateral trade was curtailed in 1977 and 1978, and an active aid programme to the Front Line States has been developed through the Canadian International Development Agency. A voluntary Code of Conduct for Canadian companies operating in South Africa was established in 1978.

Finally, in 1985, the government undertook a complete review of Canadian policy towards South Africa. As a result, a series of measures were brought into force, in addition to those agreed to at Nassau. These included stronger enforcement of the voluntary Code of Conduct, the suspension of recent government projects encouraging trade and investment in South Africa, and pressure on financial institutions to refuse loans to South African government agencies.

Canada has also been critical of South Africa for its behaviour in Namibia. At the end of World War I South Africa was given a mandate to administer South West Africa, a former German Colony. In 1966, however, the United Nations General Assembly declared that this territory should be administered by the UN with a view to gaining its independence. A year later it declared that the territory should henceforward be known as