

On 14 April 1987 Conservative member, Bill Attewell spoke of the complexity of the situation in South Africa and said that the Canadian Government rejected the concept "that total isolation of South Africa would somehow promote fundamental reform in that country. Racist mentalities feed on isolation. We, therefore, must maintain diplomatic relations with that country!"

He added later:

There is no doubt sanctions can and do serve an important symbolic purpose....this does not mean that such a course should be taken to its extreme, aside from the fact that we may be harassing economically the very people we are trying to help.¹⁶

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¹⁶ Commons Debates, 14 Apr. 1987, pp. 5171-72.