

Statements by Ministers

What further can be done, Mr. Speaker? At the Commonwealth Conference in Vancouver all countries, except the United Kingdom, called for wider, tighter and more intensified sanctions. These were not announced today, but let us hope they come out of the Lusaka meeting in February. I hope, and it is not made clear in the statement by the Minister, that we will not have to wait until the meeting in Kuala Lumpur for the committee to report before further action is taken. If I understand the Minister correctly, following Lusaka some further action might be taken with respect to these matters.

The Government has said before, and it has said again today, that if there is no progress in ending apartheid Canada is prepared to invoke total sanctions and may have to sever relations. We still hold the Government to that commitment. Sweden and Denmark have already severed diplomatic ties.

In September, the leader of the Liberal Party took the following position and I quote from his speech to Liberal International "We must see concrete action by the end of this year. The message must be direct. If clear progress is not made by the end of the year to end apartheid, our Government should impose complete economic sanctions and withdraw diplomatic relations from that country".

Today, we in the Liberal Party would like to say that a minimum indication of clear progress, as referred to by the Right Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner) in September, would be the unconditional release from prison of Nelson Mandela before the end of this year and the commencement of discussions between the South African Government and authentic black leaders opposed to apartheid, including Mandela, to prepare for the dismantlement of apartheid and to establish a non-racial representative government. That is the minimum we would expect, and we hope that the Minister will put this proposal on the table at Lusaka. When Alan Boesak and Tambo M'beki were in Canada earlier this year they praised Canada's efforts to fight apartheid but said that measures the Canadian Government had taken so far, at that time, were too weak to be regarded seriously. They said that far tougher sanctions are needed if apartheid is going to be dismantled.

As I said earlier, we support many of the efforts and initiatives taken by the Government. However the situation is degenerating in South Africa and more will have to be done. We will look closely for greater progress as a result of today's announcement and the meetings that take place in Lusaka.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, of course my Party welcomes the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) today which announces the holding of the first meeting of the committee of foreign ministers delegated by the Commonwealth Conference held in Vancouver recently to examine the effectiveness of sanctions, to ensure their application and effectiveness and to pursue other measures.

I think it is fair to congratulate the Government and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) for having reflected the

attitude of the Canadian people with respect to apartheid. We have as a nation assumed leadership in the Commonwealth, assumed the leadership abdicated by Great Britain in a way which I think is serious with respect to the Commonwealth. If there was any significant characteristic of the Commonwealth that gains respect for it, it is that it is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-national collectivity. It falls far short of the necessary characteristics which must bind it together if it refuses, or any nation within it refuses—particularly if the motherland refuses—to understand that the most fundamental enemy of the Commonwealth and what it stands for is, in fact, apartheid in South Africa.

Our Party has been, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs knows, supportive of the leadership that Canada and the Government have provided for much of its term. Indeed, the New Democratic Party is truer to the statements on the issue by the Prime Minister than is the Government itself. This I think is very nearly the second annual occasion on which the Government has indicated that if there is no progress with respect to dismantlement of apartheid Canada would sever all diplomatic and economic relations with South Africa. There is, therefore, a difference between my Party and the Government Party, more recently less difference between us and the Liberal Party as it has identified where it stands.

With respect to a particular approach and strategy, we feel that Canada must exercise another kind of leadership than that heretofore expressed. If we are going to encourage others to follow our lead, then we must, of course, live up to our promises and impose the strongest possible sanctions available to us. I have stood in this House many times without contradiction and said that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has indicated to us that he has the approval of Cabinet for the imposition of yet further sanctions. What we have out of the foreign ministers committee is commitment to ensure that the present sanctions are effectively applied.

Many of the sanctions that we have applied are not being effectively imposed. Indeed, to give just one example, Madam Speaker, we find recently that there is no compulsory imposition of an embargo on a shipment of oil and petroleum products to South Africa, irrespective of the fact that that is supposed to be a mandatory sanction out of the United Nations. Furthermore, we find that the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) (Mr. Jelinek) has refused to react to many complaints about the failure of Canada to impose the sanctions under the Gleneagles Agreement. Further, Canada has not acceded to the United Nations Convention on the imposition of yet further sanctions in the area of sport upon South Africa.

In spite of the manifest leadership of Canada and its Government concerning the battle against apartheid, we too are deficient and we ourselves have a requirement to tie up a considerable number of loose ends. Even that, as I have said, is not enough. If we are to express the kind of leadership which