

Routine Proceedings

Canada has invested over \$22 million to help Namibia secure its independence, and over 700 Canadians have participated and contributed personally. I know I speak for all members of the House in saying that we are very proud of, and grateful to, every one of those Canadians.

Above all, Namibia's independence is a success story for the Namibians. They are emerging from over a century of German and South African colonialism. When given the chance to participate in free and fair elections, their enthusiasm for democracy knew no bounds. They walked great distances and waited patiently under blazing sun in lines up to a kilometre long in order to elect their Constituent Assembly. The turnout in that election was 97 per cent.

The new Assembly, animated by a strong, all-party commitment to reconciliation and co-operation, adopted unanimously in just 80 days an exemplary constitution. It provides for fully entrenched human rights, a presidency accountable to a bicameral Parliament, an independent judiciary, regular multi-party elections, and the absence of preventive detention and the death penalty. Namibians are justifiably proud of their new constitution and they are determined to make it work in practice and not just on paper.

Lastly, Namibia's independence is a success story for South Africa, and a harbinger of hope for the future. South Africa has decolonized with dignity and shown the world that it can be trusted to fulfil international agreements. South Africans can now look to Namibia for persuasive proof that fundamental political change can be achieved through a peaceful, negotiated and democratic process. Namibia, long a hostage to apartheid, is now leading the way for South Africa in dismantling apartheid, by showing what is possible when reason overcomes emotion and compromise replaces prejudice.

• (1110)

And so Africa's last colony later today takes its long-awaited and rightful place among the community of nations. We will welcome the Republic of Namibia as the fiftieth member of the Commonwealth and soon as the one hundred and sixtieth member of the United Nations.

[*Translation*]

Canada is represented at the independence celebrations by my colleague, the Minister for External Relations and International Development (Mrs. Landry). The delegation also includes parliamentarians of all three parties—the members for Waterloo, Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. Speller) and Windsor-St. Clair—who have a long standing interest in Namibia and Southern Africa.

[*English*]

Namibia will need the continued support of its friends. I am pleased to announce today that Canada is opening a high commission in Windhoek.

Canada is also ending the application to Namibia of certain economic sanctions which were directed at South Africa when South Africa was in control. The ban on new contracts for the toll-processing of Namibian uranium is lifted with effect from March 21, 1990. I am confident that uranium can become a field of productive co-operation with Namibia and that new contracts can soon be secured. The ban on importing South African uranium remains in place and will be stringently and effectively monitored.

Canada is also moving to normalize export promotion in Namibia. The program for export market development is now available there, and we will be active in promoting trade with Namibia.

[*Translation*]

The Export Development Corporation has been told that there are no longer any barriers to export finance and investment insurance, and the chief executives of major chartered banks have been told that export credit restrictions and other voluntary financial sanctions on South Africa no longer apply to Namibia.

[*English*]

As for development assistance, the Minister for External Relations and International Development is advising Namibian leaders that CIDA will be providing a special independence contribution of up to \$1 million to support an expanded program of immunization through UNICEF. This is a high priority for the new Namibian government. With a further \$1 million already pledged by the Prime Minister through the Commonwealth Fund for technical co-operation and other aid, total Canadian