



Statements and Speeches

No. 85/8

CANADA'S MEASURES AGAINST APARTHEID

Statement in the House of Commons by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in Ottawa, September 13, 1985

I want to speak to the House about *apartheid*, and about what Canada can do to end a repugnant racist system. I am guided in these statements by two realities: first, that Canadians are offended by, and abhor the practice of institutionalized racism by a society that claims to share our values. Second, that Canada's influence is limited but real, and our challenge in this government, in this country is to take practical steps which help to end *apartheid*.

Expressing our outrage is part of our duty, and those Canadian citizens who join in peaceful protest and in demonstrations help to show the South African government how deeply the people of this country are offended by their racist practices.

It is also part of our duty to make clear to South Africa that Canada is prepared to invoke total sanctions if there is no change. As a general principle, we believe that diplomatic and economic relations should exist even though governments might disagree. Indeed, if we had accepted six months ago the advice of some groups that we then break all diplomatic and commercial relations with South Africa, we would be in no position today to act individually or in concert with other nations to add to the pressure being felt by the South African government.

We fully recognize, however, that Canada has a responsibility to provide both moral and practical leadership. The government of South Africa should have no doubt that we will invoke full sanctions unless there is tangible movement away from *apartheid*.

I will be reviewing today the actions Canada has taken, announcing some new initiatives today, and asking the House to consider avenues of influence which we, and our fellow citizens, and our friends in the world can pursue. But first, I think it helpful to indicate some of the changes we seek to bring on those norms of behaviour we expect of all civilized countries, changes which would prove that South Africa is moving away from *apartheid*.

In terms of broad principle, we would look for:

- The introduction of common citizenship. That implies common political rights including the right to vote, and an end to different categories of citizens.
 - An end to laws which classify South Africans according to colour or race.
 - Freedom for all South Africans to live, move and work unimpeded by arbitrary restrictions.
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