

What is important about this approach is that it has been endorsed by the leaders of the Front Line States in southern Africa. I would refer the Leader of the Opposition to the words of those who best know the situation in southern Africa. President Mugabe has told our Prime Minister—and I want to quote his words because I see the Leader of the Opposition laughing. Mr. Mugabe told our Prime Minister privately and publicly that he endorsed the anti-apartheid measures that Canada has taken, and that further steps are not necessary at this time.

● (1120)

I want to say that ours is a consistent and pressurized approach on the South African Government that is bringing results.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Minister of Communications in her role as Acting Prime Minister did not, I am sure, feel too comfortable in congratulating her Prime Minister for breaking his word.

IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 1985, a week earlier, in this House of Commons the Secretary of State for External Affairs had this to say:

South Africa should have no doubt that we will invoke full sanctions unless there is tangible movement away from apartheid.

That was on September 13, 1985. The situation, as the Minister knows, has deteriorated since then.

The Prime Minister restated that position at the United Nations on October 23, 1985, and again in this House of Commons on October 28, 1985, in almost the same words. Why did the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs make those promises to the world, and to Canadians, if they did not intend to keep their word? They did not talk about partial sanctions. They did not talk about travel embargoes. They talked about breaking diplomatic relations and imposing total economic sanctions.

The situation has deteriorated in South Africa. Why did the Prime Minister not keep his word yesterday by imposing total sanctions and breaking diplomatic relations?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the policy of the Canadian Government is to move in a deliberate and systematic way toward total sanctions, and that is what we are doing. That approach is endorsed by the majority of members of the Commonwealth. It is endorsed by the leaders of the Front Line States in southern Africa. It is endorsed by those who best know the terrible situation which exists in South Africa and who really want to do something to help reverse the terrible blight of apartheid.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the deliberate speed invoked by the Acting Prime Minister is a disguise for a hasty retreat from a position made firmly three

years ago by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Let's face it. The Prime Minister used the United Nations yesterday as an advanced photo opportunity for the election campaign.

[Translation]

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister had announced he would impose full economic sanctions and break off diplomatic relations with South Africa, but he failed to keep his word.

Why did he bother to go to New York and address the United Nations, if it was not his intention yesterday to keep his word and announce that he would break off diplomatic relations with South Africa and, in fact, break off all relations, both diplomatic and economic, with that country?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (The Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the cynicism and low level tactics of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition know no bounds.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): That's why he is in third place.

Miss MacDonald: The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition seeks to discredit the United Nations—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: —and the appearance of the Prime Minister of Canada before the United Nations. I am absolutely amazed, Sir, that in a forum where one looks for a non-partisan approach, such as the United Nations—

Ms. Copps: What about sanctions?

Miss MacDonald: —the fact is that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition seeks to score cheap political points, cheap partisan points, which he thinks will gain him some advantage in this country. That is absolutely reprehensible.

Mr. Gauthier: Order! She is not answering the question.

Miss MacDonald: Canadians are much better attuned to world events than the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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SPORTS

OLYMPIC GAMES—DISQUALIFIED CANADIAN ATHLETE—
SUSPENSION FROM NATIONAL TEAM

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is also addressed to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the Ben Johnson case. Throughout this entire affair the actions of the Government have been contradictory and certainly worrisome, to say the least.