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# Statements and Speeches

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## CANADIAN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

Statement by the Honourable Donald C. Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, House of Commons, December 19, 1977.

... As the Prime Minister indicated in the House some two weeks ago on December 5, Canada, along with a great many other countries, has been re-examining the attitude it ought to take beyond what has already been done by the world community in response to those actions that in recent times have been undertaken in South Africa, to which we in Canada take the strongest possible objection, and with which we — and I am sure this extends well beyond the Government of Canada — are in major disagreement.

It is true, of course, that in other countries of the world there are clear violations of, and disregard for, human rights. There, too, Canada is expressing its concern, as are all members of this House. South Africa, however, stands alone. It is the only country that, as a basic part of its government structure — whether it is constitutional in the legal sense is beside the point —, has a declared and unequivocal policy. It stands apart as a country that makes decisions affecting human beings on the basis of race and colour. Therefore, over time, it is not surprising that the attitude of the vast majority of the countries of the world has become harder, particularly during these past months, when we have seen an increase in the amount of repression, rioting, and especially in the disturbances that followed the still-unexplained death of a respectable and respected black leader of South Africa, Steve Biko.

Along with others, Canada has been asking what further steps we ought to take in order to display and to demonstrate our disapproval of the present regime and our disapproval of *apartheid*. We strongly believe that what must come in South Africa is the destruction of that kind of system, the introduction of the principle of one man, one vote, and of the normal democratic process which all of us in this part of the world take for granted.

I am, therefore, announcing today that Canada is phasing out all its Government-sponsored, commercial-support activities in South Africa.

For example, we shall as quickly as possible withdraw our commercial counsellors from Johannesburg and close the office of the Consulate General in that city. We shall also withdraw our commercial officers from Cape Town. We shall, of course, maintain our diplomatic officers in Pretoria for normal business, because we do not feel that the breaking-off of diplomatic relations at this time is advisable. We wish to still have an opportunity to do what we can in order to impress upon the Government of South Africa the necessity for change. We also want to have an opportunity to talk to respected leaders who are opposed to *apartheid* in South Africa.