

*Oral Questions***APARTHEID****SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST FOR MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH LEADERS**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and it is also on the subject of South Africa. The Government of South Africa not only insulted the Eminent Persons Group by attacking countries on its borders while the commission was in South Africa, but it has subsequently not met a deadline proposed by the Eminent Persons Group, and as recently as 48 hours ago it launched a police attack on white students exercising their civil liberties. In short, the situation in South Africa has intensified and worsened. Will the Government publicly acknowledge that, and make a very specific request to all other leaders of the Commonwealth to have a meeting at the leaders' level before the end of June rather than waiting until August?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly agree to half of the request made by the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party, and that is to express not only the grave disappointment but the growing sense of pessimism about a constructive result in South Africa as a result of the behaviour of that Government. I think all of us who are looking for a solution which respects peace, let alone human dignity, are depressed by the response of the Government of South Africa.

• (1425)

With regard to the second part of the Hon. Member's question, the Eminent Persons Group is in place. I am advised, as recently as this morning, that it will take them until near the end of June to submit their report. They have been the most effective instrument found, albeit their results have not been what we would have wished. I think we owe it to that group to let them continue their work, and then proceed as speedily as we can once the report is in.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Answers and questions are long today.

REQUEST THAT FURTHER SANCTIONS BE IMPOSED

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs would recognize not only the eminent moral authority but the sound sense of judgment of Bishop Tutu on such matters. In my discussions with him on the weekend, I proposed in the context of the Eminent Persons Group recommendations that Canada show some leadership by calling for a meeting in June instead of in August and by announcing some sanctions now. He was in agreement that such leadership in concrete form was desirable. Why would the Secretary of State for External Affairs not now join with Bishop Tutu in taking this concrete action which

could force that racist Government in South Africa finally to respond?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised that Bishop Tutu would respond in that way. He has lived through an almost unendurable set of circumstances and is making his case very compellingly. The issue before us is how we best respond as a nation, and as a nation which is part of the Commonwealth, to try to bring an end to that regime which we all revile. That is the issue for us.

In our judgment one component of that response must be to encourage and give heed to the strong recommendations of people like Bishop Tutu. The other part is to try to make the most effective use we can of the instruments open to us, whether they are economic sanctions which Canada might continue to apply or bring pressure to bear on the Commonwealth. We will continue to do that in a steady way. We have made clear that if these other steps do not work, Canada will ultimately—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A supplementary question.

GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I understand the Government's desire in its original schedule to meet the proposed scheduling of events of the Eminent Persons Group. Since that was established, the Government in South Africa has become worse, if I may put it bluntly, not better. Since racial tensions have worsened instead of improved, does the Government not see some urgency to act now? If so, will the Government now show some leadership by calling for an early meeting of Commonwealth leaders and demonstrating action by Canada, by announcing prior to that meeting some concrete sanctions by our own Government?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of concrete sanctions by the Government. In many ways we have led the western world in terms of the concrete sanctions we have brought in.

We are talking about two timetables here. One is the timetable of the Eminent Persons Group, which is preparing a report. It is their own judgment that it will take them toward the end or near the end of June to finish that report. We want that report to be thorough, not to be rushed. The other timetable is how quickly will the Heads of Government meet after the report is in place. That is a matter which I think it would be wise to consider when we have a clearer idea of the nature of the report. We are talking here about a matter of 30 days to 35 days. We are talking about that matter in the context of a Canadian Government which has already shown leadership and has indicated that we intend to show leadership against apartheid toward the end of having it removed as a system.