

Statement

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Déclaration

Secrétaire
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Affaires
extérieures

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CLARK APPLAUDS SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, applauded the positive steps towards fundamental change and negotiations announced by South African President F.W. de Klerk in his opening speech to Parliament today. He described the speech as an encouraging beginning and said Canada will maintain its activities, urging further concrete movement to end apartheid.

"Today is a good day for South Africa. President de Klerk has removed many of the significant obstacles to meaningful negotiations towards a non-racial democracy. We also look forward to welcoming soon the release of Nelson Mandela. It is particularly important that he will be released into a situation in which bans have been lifted on the African National Congress and other political organizations. The easing of other restrictions, including on the press, also enhances the prospects for freer political debate, dialogue and negotiations. We commend President de Klerk for taking these initiatives. We also congratulate all those whose tireless efforts to bring about an end to apartheid are beginning to bear fruit".

"When Prime Minister Mulroney embarked on a policy of seeking to bring effective international pressure to bear on the Government of South Africa, he knew it would not be instantly successful. But he also knew that eventually this pressure, coupled with measures to assist victims and opponents of apartheid, and enhance dialogue across the racial divide, would bring positive results. Canada is proud to have contributed to the changes that have taken place. We intend to maintain pressure until those changes are irreversible, and at the same time remain ready to assist the process of negotiations in any way."

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