

Tabling of Documents

gasoline than on leaded gasoline. Would the Minister tell the House what steps he intends to take to stop this anti-environmental measure which, in essence, rewards the polluter and runs counter to the acid rain policy which the Minister is applying at the present time?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member may know, tomorrow at three o'clock p.m. the Royal Society of Canada will be releasing a major report, undertaken for my Department, on a broad range of issues, relating to the item to which the Hon. Member refers. At that time I myself will make a public statement. I ask for the Hon. Member's indulgence and patience until I am prepared to make the statement.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of two, presented by Hon. Members on Friday, October 25, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

Certain petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) do not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY AND PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE TO SECOND REPORT OF STANDING JOINT
COMMITTEE—CORRECTION OF ENGLISH TEXT

Mrs. Monique Landry (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 25 of this year, the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) pointed out a discrepancy between the English and French versions of the Government Response to the Second Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages Policy and Programs.

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State (Mr. Bouchard), I wish to table today, on behalf of the Committee, a duly corrected copy of page 7 of the English version.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE AND UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING—STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to the House this afternoon on the events of the past two weeks. During that period I have had the opportunity of representing Canada at the Commonwealth heads of Government meeting at Nassau, making my first address to the General Assembly of the UN, meeting with leaders of the western industrialized nations in anticipation of the upcoming summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, and holding a number of bilateral meetings with leaders both in New York and in Nassau.

This morning I was able to provide Her Excellency, the Governor General, with a full briefing on these activities.

The Commonwealth heads of Government met in Nassau against a backdrop of continuing violence in South Africa and increasing international condemnation of that country's repressive policy of apartheid. Before the Nassau meeting convened, each Commonwealth country had, in its own way, taken action to express its repugnance for the intransigence of the regime in Pretoria towards the aspirations of the vast majority of South Africans—their simple desire to be free and to participate fully and responsibly in the national life of their country.

Each Government, however, was fully aware that at Nassau we would face the challenge of finding a consensus on the collective and unanimous message which needed to be sent to President Botha and the Government in South Africa.

While Commonwealth leaders began the meeting united in the belief that apartheid must end, we did not all arrive in the Bahamas agreed that economic measures were the best or even the appropriate way to signal our determination to see an end brought to systematic racial discrimination in South Africa.

In my opening statement at the conference, on behalf of all Canadians, I tried to stress the unanimity of resolve I felt existed among Commonwealth leaders, each of whom had clearly expressed his or her abhorrence for apartheid. I also confirmed the view of Canadians that this resolve must find expression in a common program of action to enable Commonwealth countries to signal to Pretoria, clearly and without exception, that world-wide pressure against South Africa will be sustained, and must be sustained, until such time as apartheid comes to an end.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: The discussions among leaders, which ultimately produced the Commonwealth Accord on South Africa, were long, arduous and not without some difficulties. At the same time, I thought they were characterized by a degree of good will and civility which I understand is typical of Commonwealth meetings and which contributes to what I found to be the very special nature of this forum. But no matter how challenging the negotiations, all participants readily agreed on the urgency of the situation in South Africa, the rightness of