

In Parliament, I expressed my disappointment at the decision of Falconbridge to increase its investment in South Africa, and look forward to their acting on their undertaking to divest of that holding. But the decisions to disinvest by Bata, by Alcan, by Dominion Textiles, and by others are stronger because they are voluntary. They tell Pretoria that apartheid is self-defeating economically, as well as unacceptable morally.

Several Canadian companies remain in South Africa. As long as they are there, the Canadian Government expects them to be good employers. We expect them to ensure that apartheid is at least eliminated in the workplace which they control. We think that our Code of Conduct for Canadian Companies operating in South Africa is a useful benchmark to work by. From their first reports on performance under this voluntary code, the 15 or so Canadian companies involved are doing a pretty good overall job of implementing the code.

I will be meeting again with Canadian companies still operating in South Africa, to discuss further actions that might be taken. In preparation for those meetings, I asked Archbishop Scott to consult both United States and Canadian companies that have already decided to divest themselves of their holdings in South Africa. He will be reporting to me shortly, and believes there may be room for new initiatives for Canada and Canadians to take.