

Statement

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Address

by the Right Honourable Joe Clark,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
to the Annual Conference  
of the Southern African Development  
Coordination Conference

ARUSHA, TANZANIA

January 28, 1988.

Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

I am honoured to be here, because SADCC is an example of efficiency which is admired wherever development is discussed. Other continents, other regions have much to learn from the way you set your priorities, and achieve them. Canada is proud to be among your partners, and looks forward to increasing our work together. My colleague, the Honourable Monique Landry, has announced our decision to boost by 25 percent Canada's support for SADCC through the Canadian International Development Agency. We expect our spending on SADCC projects to rise from 32 million dollars during the current fiscal year to 40 million dollars next year.

Over and above our SADCC programme, of course, Canada provides development assistance of various kinds to all nine SADCC member-states. Canadian disbursements last year for government-to-government cooperation with SADCC members amounted to an additional one hundred million Canadian dollars.

We have announced two important new bilateral initiatives in Mozambique, where our assistance had been limited to humanitarian and food aid, we are launching a regular planned programme of bilateral cooperation. We expect it to be at the level of about six million Canadian dollars a year, and Memoranda of Understanding are about to be signed. In Zimbabwe and Botswana we are making thirty million dollars available to help finance the two hundred and twenty kilovolt interconnector power line, which is a vital step in making Botswana less dependent on South African power. That was the subject of an agreement signed a year ago by the Heads of Government of Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Canada when Prime Minister Mulroney became the first leader of a major Western power to visit Zimbabwe.

Our contribution will help to provide lines, sub-stations, transformers and reactors. There is one particular aspect I wish to emphasize, half of this funding will be untied, and the project will be carried out by a Zimbabwean firm and a Canadian firm, working in close cooperation. We are continuing to build on local capabilities within SADCC-member countries by using local expertise as much as possible.

Africa is very important to Canada. Despite the oceans between us, we, like you, understand the challenge of building communities across vast distances, of moving economies forward from dependence on natural resources, of bringing different cultures and traditions together. We are one of the Western nations whose only expertise of colonialism has been as a colony. There are of course many kinds of colonialism. I noted my colleague from the Soviet Union's reference to the

dangers of external interference in Africa. And we work at deepening the bonds that bring us together, in the Commonwealth, in La Francophonie, in the agencies of the United Nations.

Over the last three years, Canada has undertaken a full review of our development assistance programme, that African priority has been evident throughout that review. Madame Landry will soon issue an up-to-date strategy to guide our development cooperation as we move toward the year 2000. Africa enjoys a high priority in our strategy for development cooperation, as it does in Canadian foreign policy generally.

Part of our purpose is to increase trade and investment, and we are making modest progress. Last year, five Canadian business persons came to this Conference. This year, in Harare, at the business conference, there will be twelve. (That is almost as many businessmen as bureaucrats). In February the Canadian Exporters Association, with CIDA's help, will set up an office in Harare to promote Canadian investment, transfer of technology, and joint ventures in the SADCC region. Prime Minister Mulroney's recent visit to southern Africa made Canadians, including Canadian business, more aware of the region. The fight against apartheid is causing some business interest to shift to other countries of southern Africa. But that is only a beginning and not yet a trend, and my government would be very interested in discussing realistic ways to increase the interest of our private sector in your economies.

SADCC countries, like other developing regions, are dealing with debt, drought, diversification, and other challenges of development. What is distinctive here is the aggressive presence of apartheid, which is not just a system in one country, but a major source of instability throughout the sub-continent. Among other effects, South Africa's policies in southern Africa systematically disrupt trade, and economic growth, in your countries. SADCC itself is one of the most effective responses to South Africa's policies, and countries here from outside the region are united in seeking to establish transportation links, communication links and other infrastructure, that stay open and keep working. I look forward to meeting later today with representatives of Great Britain and Mozambique to discuss for example rehabilitation of the Limpopo line. That project was among a series of common actions against apartheid agreed to by leaders of the Commonwealth, at the meeting at Vancouver, Canada, in October.

One other result of the Vancouver meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government was the establishment of the Committee of Foreign Ministers to guide and encourage effective Commonwealth actions against apartheid. I have the honour to chair that Committee, which will hold its first meeting, in Lusaka, starting Sunday night. Ben Mkapa and I will be meeting then with our colleagues the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, Guyana, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We will review systematically the programme of action agreed by Commonwealth Heads of Government in what is called their Okanagan Statement.

The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers intends to proceed by concentrating on four major areas. We will seek to ensure that the Commonwealth strategy of pressuring South Africa to make fundamental changes is reinforced through the widening, tightening and intensification of sanctions. We will continue to encourage a more comprehensive response by the international community to the desperate plight of South Africa's neighbours. We intend to reach into South Africa, to increase support for the victims of apartheid by efforts to encourage dialogue with and among the opponents of apartheid and by means to counteract the powerful weapon of South African propaganda and censorship. Finally, we will look for ways to ensure that South Africa complies with Security Council Resolution 435, and grants Namibia its long overdue independence.

We want to ensure the continuing effectiveness of Commonwealth action and the continuing focus of world opinion on southern Africa. Part of our purpose is to keep southern African issues before international public opinion. We will meet as necessary from now until the next Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 1989 in Kuala Lumpur, to ensure that the objectives of the Okanagan agreement are met.

The Commonwealth, and its committee on southern Africa, can point the way. But we are not the only ones that have taken up the challenge posed by South Africa to the world community. Many other countries and organizations, most of them represented in this room, are working individually and together in the battle against apartheid and its destabilizing impact on this region.

Since 1984 Canada has taken more than twenty-five separate measures against South Africa to exert pressure for change. We have contributed to efforts to promote dialogue and to assist the victims and opponents of apartheid. Our Prime

Minister and government have taken an active role which we intend to continue, in SADCC, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the United Nations and the meetings of the Western economic summit.

In that spirit of common purpose and common action I am honoured to represent the government and people of Canada here today.