

communiqué

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LETTER TO ROD MURPHY, M.P.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today released the following text of a letter dated September 24, to Mr. Rod Murphy, M.P.:

"Dear Rod:

The Prime Minister has drawn to my attention your letter to him of September 23 concerning my recent comments about economic sanctions against South Africa.

In your letter you lament that Canadian policy is not clear. I would argue that except to those anxious to simultaneously condemn and applaud it, our policy is abundantly clear.

In my statements on July 6 and September 13 I said that the Government of Canada does not wish to apply full economic sanctions against South Africa. The limited economic sanctions which we have announced are designed to put pressure on the Government of South Africa to dismantle apartheid. If we are successful, full economic sanctions will not be necessary.

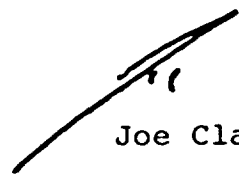
Our policy is a measured one. Fully on the record is our intention to proceed incrementally; to increase the pressure gradually until reform in South Africa is achieved.

I have been up-front with Canadians from the beginning. While many, including members of your caucus, have been calling for full sanctions now, I've been anxious that Canadians appreciate the costs of that policy. So far it is business which has borne the bulk of the costs ensuing from our measures. If full economic sanctions are embraced, then all Canadians must pay.

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Personally, I am glad that the debate has begun. Those who call for full sanctions can no longer deceive Canadians as to the impact which such measures would have on Canada if not necessarily on South Africa. Because it is neither my desire nor intention to endanger jobs in Flin Flon or elsewhere in Canada, I have encouraged upon my colleagues a policy of providing international leadership while avoiding those actions which would have greater impact on Canada than on South Africa. Frankly, I think the people of Flin Flon and Snow Lake can rest more easily with the government's gradualist policy than with flaming rhetoric and the call for full economic sanctions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form the name 'Joe Clark'.

Joe Clark"