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# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

## COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS ON SOUTH AFRICA

Notes for a statement by  
the Right Honourable  
Joe Clark, Secretary of  
State for External Affairs,  
in the House of Commons

OTTAWA

June 12, 1986.

Canada

Eight months ago, in Nassau, Canada and forty eight other members of the Commonwealth established a Group of seven Eminent Persons to seek ways of "dismantling apartheid and erecting the structure of democracy in South Africa". That was done in the belief that the multiracial Commonwealth, of which South Africa was once a member, had a better chance than any other institution to encourage change without violence. Twenty three days ago, while the Eminent Persons Group was still in Capetown, the Government of South Africa launched bombs and raids on Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. This morning, in London, the Group issued its report - a unanimous report.

It concludes that, at present, there is no genuine intention on the part of the South African Government to dismantle apartheid.

It reports that political freedom, far from being established, is being more rigorously curtailed, and the cycle of violence, and counter-violence, grows.

It finds that the concrete progress looked for in the Nassau Accord has not materialized.

The Prime Minister of Canada and six other Commonwealth leaders will meet in London August 3rd to 5th to consider what further action the Commonwealth can take together to increase pressure against apartheid. Already one thing is clear.

By its actions, its words, its raids against its neighbours, the South African Government has closed one more door on dialogue. The temptation is to conclude that they will never respond to our entreaties, never change by choice. That is not the view of the Eminent Persons - not yet. But it is their view that steady pressure is essential to any prospect of peaceful change. I quote their report:

"We point to the fact that the government of South Africa had itself used economic measures against its neighbours and that such measures are patently instruments of its own national policy. We are convinced that the South African Government is concerned about the adoption of effective economic measures against it. If it comes to the conclusion that it would always remain protected from such measures, the process of change in South Africa is unlikely to increase in momentum, and the descent into violence would be accelerated. In these circumstances, the cost in lives may have to be counted in millions."

Canada has already taken several economic and other measures against apartheid. After the August meeting, we are prepared to take more, in concert with the Commonwealth if possible, on our own if necessary. We believe the Commonwealth will move forward united against apartheid. To encourage that result, to maintain that pressure, I am announcing today four more Canadian measures against apartheid.

Two were listed in the Commonwealth Accord.

We are ending Canadian Government procurement of South African products. I have today written the Provinces urging them to consider parallel action in their own jurisdiction.

We will ban the promotion in Canada of tourism in South Africa.

We are allocating an additional two million dollars to our program for the education and training of Blacks in South Africa.

Finally, I have directed my officials to inform the South African Government that Canada will no longer accept the non-resident accreditation of the four South African attachés to Canada for Science, Mining, Labour and Agriculture. They will no longer be authorized to carry on their official functions in Canada.

Those are measured steps - economic, diplomatic, humanitarian - to maintain steady pressure against apartheid. In addition, the Canadian Embassy in South Africa will be closed on Monday, June 16th, to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the tragedy of Soweto. Members of the Embassy will be attending the services that will be taking place that day, to mark the aspirations of the majority of South Africans for a society based on freedom and equality, and to share their hope for peace.

The Prime Minister has asked Mr. Bernard Wood, Director of the North - South Institute, to visit a number of Commonwealth partners in preparation for the August meeting. Mr. Wood will consult with President Kenneth Kaunda, the Chairman of the Front Line States, and other Commonwealth leaders.

The Prime Minister spoke last night with Prime Minister Hawke of Australia, and will be in touch with Prime Minister Gandhi of India, to maintain the partnership that proved effective in Nassau. He will be meeting Prime Minister Thatcher during her visit to Canada in July.

We are also, of course, consulting countries outside the Commonwealth. Canada's representative on the Commonwealth Committee on South Africa, our High Commissioner to London, Roy McMurtry, will represent Canada at the United Nations World Conference on Sanctions in Paris next week.

Mr. Speaker, what we are doing is designed to maintain the effectiveness of a Commonwealth we value, and to keep Canada in the forefront of those who oppose apartheid. These measures do not rule out further steps in the near future. On the contrary, they portend more severe measures, if the South African Government continues to refuse to enter a dialogue except on its own narrow terms.

In closing, on behalf of all Canadians, I want to pay tribute to the dedication, wisdom and generosity of Archbishop Ted Scott. He has performed a great service. So have his colleagues in the Eminent Persons Group. We are grateful to him - and to all of them. Canada will act in the generous and determined spirit which inspired their work.