

Statement

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SPEECH BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TO THE COMMONWEALTH-WIDE NGO INITIATIVE ON

ADVANCE EDUCATION AND HIGH-LEVEL TRAINING

FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

August 6, 1989.

Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Archbishop,

Distinguished delegates and guests

I am honoured that you would give me a few minutes of your time in the midst of what I understand is a full and highly productive meeting.

The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa is about to begin the fourth of our meetings - which have also been productive - and we expect to draw inspiration from you in two ways.

First, and most tangibly, we look forward to receiving your final report, and conveying it to the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth at their meeting in October in Kuala Lumpur. But more generally, you are creating an atmosphere of hope and preparation in southern Africa, helping equip the people of South Africa to make the most of the freedom they will win when apartheid is gone. Our immediate goal is to end that evil system, but the longer purpose is to help all South Africans create a durable society of equality and accomplishment. Education, and the development of skills, are at the heart of meeting that challenge. I am particularly proud of the leadership of Ted Scott and other Canadians in your essential work of building the skills and knowledge of black South Africans and, in a moment, I want to mention what the Canadian Government can do, and has done, to help.

But your work is being done in the context of the fight against apartheid. It is essential that we remain hard-headed and firm in the fight against that system. Without question, there have been real changes recently in southern Africa, most markedly in Namibia. There is also a promise of some change in South Africa itself. But within South Africa, that change is still a promise, not yet a reality. The policy challenge, for the Commonwealth and for its member countries, is to encourage any real process of reform, while, at the same time, maintaining relentless pressure against apartheid.

No one can predict what the next year will bring. But we can identify some of the factors that cause the promise of change. For example, we can say with certainty that one real cause of change in southern Africa has been the steady and determined pressure of the Commonwealth, including particularly the sanctions adopted in the last four years, and the ability of the Commonwealth to persuade other influential countries to adopt economic measures.

That pressure must continue, and it must continue to build, until there is clear proof that apartheid is being dismantled. That is the commitment of the Government of Canada. We are in this fight to bring an end to apartheid, and that will be a priority of our government until the battle is won.

We believe there is conclusive proof that sanctions work against apartheid. Some measures work better than others - for example, financial sanctions are particularly effective. Some of the programs we have adopted will be effective only if other major economies join them or respect them. But a major factor in the progress we have made since the Nassau Conference has been the fact that a realistic significant package of sanctions was identified by Commonwealth Heads of Government, and steadily implemented by countries whose pressure could have a practical effect.

A key element of that strategy is to encourage other countries to widen, tighten and intensify the measures we have begun, and the Kuala Lumpur Conference will consider recommendations as to how that can best be done.

Canada, of course, has implemented the full range of Commonwealth measures, and gone beyond them. We think it is important that pressure from Commonwealth countries be both steady and increasing, and so, in the past year, have expanded our export controls on high technology items, and strengthened our policy on sport.

There will always be some South Africans with a laager mentality, but the numbers are increasing of those who recognize that political change is necessary if their sub-continent is to realize its full potential, and who are lobbying the Government to pursue negotiations that will respond to the aspirations of South African blacks. We must continue to keep up the pressure.

But we must also turn increasing attention to preparing the society that will emerge after apartheid. That is where your work is so critical.

In 1985, we launched the first phase of the Canadian Education Program for South Africa. It is valued at \$8.2 million and is made up of four components: internal scholarships; small scale initiatives in areas such as adult education and alternative schooling; labour education; and the in-Canada scholarship program. That latter program is implemented by the South Africa Education Trust Fund, chaired by Archbishop Scott.

I am pleased to announce today that Canada will provide \$14.7 million for the second phase of the Canadian Education Program. Emphasis will be put on the training of black South Africans in critical skill areas, the promotion of stronger linkages between Canadians and South Africans working together for a democratic South Africa, as well as support for other Canadian government efforts to promote meaningful change in South Africa. Special attention will be paid to the promotion of human rights, the role of women, and black interests within strategic sectors of the economy.

As part of our efforts to aid victims of apartheid, we were pleased to fund the feasibility study, launched at the Toronto meeting of Foreign Ministers, for the initiative you are all engaged in. I am also encouraged to learn of the support this initiative has subsequently received from across the Commonwealth, from the Secretariat, the Australian Government and many others in Africa and the Caribbean.

In my view, two aspects of this Commonwealth-wide NGO program for advanced education and high-level training for black South Africans are key. Not only does the program effectively reach into South Africa, but it also reaches out and involves institutions and governments which may otherwise not have offered assistance.

In my own country, local governments, trade unions, universities and other institutions have risen to the challenge and offered work experience and educational opportunities to black South Africans. This has a ripple effect, involving many ordinary Canadians, and in turn bolstering Canadian measures against apartheid. Through the provision of placements and in-kind support, the base of Commonwealth participation can also be broadened, again bolstering Commonwealth-wide measures.

Secondly, it is important to stress the link between promoting education and skills development among black South Africans and helping push the process of change. External training is geared towards the needs inside South Africa and among exiles. Support through training to those involved in community organizations, black professional groups and trade unions further the ability of blacks to provide internal pressure for change.

Canada has implemented other programs, including a major fund to promote dialogue among South Africans about a non-racial future and a program to counter South African propaganda and censorship.

We are engaged in this fight across the board, and we are here to stay, applying funding, programs, pressure and support. We understand the importance of Canadian leadership on this range of questions, and our government is honoured to work so closely with Ted Scott, Lord Chitnis, and the rest of you here.