

Color this aid black

Canada is to take South Africa behind the woodshed and give it heck. A host of major and minor punitive measures will shortly be applied by Ottawa's moral disciplinarian, Joe Clark. South Africa's blacks are to receive \$5 million in some sort of "educational" support from our threadbare treasury.

Cynics might suspect that these measures are aimed more at delighting Canada's noisy left-wing groups and pink churches than in truly aiding South Africa's peoples. A few observations:

- Why is Ottawa giving \$5 million for some vague aid program for South African blacks — not whites, browns, yellows, mind you, but blacks — when Canadian consumers have just seen the federal sales tax go up, making everything from soap to Band-aids more expensive. Do most Canadians really want to pay more taxes for this sort of kneejerk liberalism? Is this a way to reduce the deficit?

- While our leftists and media were denouncing South Africa, their darling Robert Mugabe, chief of just-across-the-border Zimbabwe, called his white citizens "white witches." Further, Mugabe, whose army has murdered or raped tens of thousands in Matabeleland, has just announced that Zimbabwe will soon become a one-party, Marxist state. Run, of course, by his black ZANU party — whites and members of the Ndabele tribe need not apply. In short and in plain view, Zibabwe will soon become another squalid, brutal black African tyranny. But we have not heard one peep from Ottawa, our pink churches or the left. Nothing.

- Canadian churchmen were so busy pillorying South Africa that they completely ignored the frightful story of Bishop Pinmei who was just released from prison in China. He had suffered 30 years, much in solitary, because he would not renounce his Catholic faith. Thousands more clergy

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and perhaps one million political prisoners remain in Chinese prisons. How does our clergy respond to such a horror? Silence. Catholic bishops in Canada are too busy denouncing South Africa and business to pay attention to the martyrdom of Catholics in China.

- In the Soviet Union, Seventh Day Adventists, Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses and Moslems are jailed for attempting to preach religion. Again, silence from the Canadian left.

- We are being told by Ottawa to cut back on trade with evil South Africa. Yet, at the same time, Ottawa encourages trade with the Soviet Union, China, eastern Europe, all of black Africa and many Middle Eastern states, such as Iraq and Syria, where human rights, according to Amnesty International, are routinely flouted. South Africa, for all its failings still has a solid legal system and the rule of law. Who among us would rather face a Soviet, East German or Syrian court for "anti-state activities" than one in South Africa. There, justice is rough; but at least some people are acquitted. Name some recent acquittals in Moscow.

- In West Germany, recently, Canadian tank crews came at the bottom of NATO gunnery trials. Our soldiers were the worst in NATO. Our reaction to this national shame? Silence. Our men performed so poorly because our defence budgets cannot afford them practice ammunition. So our vital national defence rests in the hands of soldiers who cannot shoot because we won't pay for training, and yet Joe Clark suddenly finds \$5 million for black South Africans. The left-wing churches and other groups should come up with this money, not the taxpayers.

- Canada may be scourging South Africa but other black Africans do not quite share the same world view. One of South Africa's main problems is keeping blacks from neighboring countries out of the republic; tens of thousands try to sneak into South Africa to find work or to flee the misery, squalor and terror of their Canadian-approved black despotisms like Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique. These blacks just don't agree with our churchmen.

All of this is to say that there is something terribly wrong about Ottawa's morbid fascination with South Africa. The world abounds in places infinitely worse than the white republic, a place where black Africans have the highest living standard in Africa. Focusing on South Africa and ignoring far worse human rights abuses elsewhere is safe, convenient and risk-free, the moral equivalent of Pabulum.

And, besides, who precisely does Joe Clark mean by South African "blacks?" Are they to be Oxhosa, Sotho, Zulu, Hottentot, Bushmen, Indians, Cape Coloreds — or just anyone who isn't white? If so, this is Ottawa's own little version of apartheid.

Punch



"Our biggest mistake was to swap the cow for the home computer."