

Obviously, it is not enough simply to have an influence on the world campaign against apartheid. We must exercise that influence, and provide leadership in a steady application of new pressures against apartheid.

The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, which I have the honour to chair, has the mandate to recommend ways to widen, tighten and intensify the economic sanctions.

At our recent meeting in Toronto, we considered an interim report from an expert group studying the impact of sanctions. It confirmed that sanctions do have an impact - that the South African Government is beginning to feel the pinch. To improve the effectiveness of sanctions, though, the Expert Group made a number of proposals.

Most important perhaps is to encourage other countries to adopt the Commonwealth package of measures, including particularly the ban on the import of coal which represents 8% of South Africa's exports.

South Africa will be increasing its efforts to evade sanctions. Thus, we agreed that countries should be examining the need for stricter customs scrutiny and higher priority for investigating sanctions violations. Heavier penalties may be needed as well as increased publicity to violations as a deterrent. There may also be technology transfers which help South Africa to circumvent the important arms, oil and computer sanctions. We have to take account of them, and close any loopholes.

These and several other proposals are being addressed by officials. For example. Customs Canada has successfully prosecuted several companies for customs violations.

The Commonwealth study on South Africa's relations with the international financial system demonstrates the financial squeeze South Africa is facing. It identified sources of financing which may be cushioning South Africa's balance of payments difficulties. Ministers agreed on steps to help remove that cushion and increase economic pressure on South Africa.