

prominent individuals. The wide range of participation, as well as the high level at which governments were represented, left no doubt about the seriousness with which the international community regards the problem created by the policies and actions of the South African Government. The terms of the Lagos Declaration, which was adopted by consensus, set out in unmistakable language the intensity of the opposition of the international community to South Africa's system of apartheid. It underlined the support of the international community for the victims of those policies in their struggle to achieve full and equal participation in their own society.

In the wake of our deliberations here at the United Nations and elsewhere, and of the Lagos Conference, the Government of South Africa can have no illusions as to how it is seen by the rest of the world. Its policies, which have created a society embodying cruel divisions along racial lines, have been universally condemned. The South African Government has been advised by voices within and without that it has set its country on a road to disaster and that only a commitment in favour of fundamental change can avert it.

The response of the South African Government to international appeals and demands for progress towards racial justice has been uncompromising. Last month Mr. Steve Biko died in a South African prison. His was the 21st such death in South African prisons in the past 18 months. His death deprived black South Africans of a leader who was widely respected as a man with potential for engaging effectively in the inter-racial dialogue which is essential to a peaceful evolution of South African society. The Canadian Government made known its concern to the South African Government and advised them that a full and prompt investigation into the circumstances of Mr. Biko's death was warranted.

Mr. President, Canadians reacted with shock and dismay to the latest oppressive wave of bannings and detentions and the silencing of an important element of the South African press. To give expression to Canadian feelings in reaction to these events, the Canadian Government called in the South African Ambassador in Ottawa to convey to him and his Government our concerns.

Among those struggling courageously against the unjust and humiliating system of apartheid, is Mr. Percy Qoboza, the editor of the principle black newspaper "The World," which was among those banned last week. In a paper he prepared for a conference last May at the University of Pretoria, Mr. Qoboza stressed that black leaders wished to have a dialogue with the