

Serious dialogue must begin with leaders who have the trust of the black community. The release of Nelson Mandela, and his involvement in such a serious dialogue, would be a significant step towards trust and peaceful reform.

The Government of Canada urges South Africa to stop the arrests and end the detention without trial of those who have called for, and participated in, non-violent protests. Imprisoning hundreds is no way to start a dialogue. Those who are detained, and forced to be silent, cannot contribute to reconciliation, or help to achieve a true and equal partnership. In the interests of peaceful change, and as a prelude to genuine dialogue, we urge the Government of South Africa to state clearly now that its objective is to end apartheid, and to replace it by a system based on full partnership and equality.

No one mistakes the determination of the Commonwealth to end apartheid. There is no doubt that determination remains sharp and clear. We have a particular responsibility now, as events take new momentum, and the choice is between violent and non-violent reform. It is to explore every avenue that may lead quickly to reform, and to use our special influence and experience to prepare the way for progress, after apartheid is ended.

Particular steps may commend themselves to the Commonwealth as an organization. It may wish to explore whether it, or some of its members, can contribute to opening that dialogue between the South African Government, and those who stand in opposition to it. That could perhaps be done by providing an occasion for exploratory talks. If there are any possibilities for opening the door to peaceful change, we should not be deterred by fear of rebuff.

Nor should we assume South Africa will resist real change forever. The recent actions to allow blacks permanent residence in certain urban areas and suspension of forced removals of blacks are at least a step away from the past. As we urge basic reform, we must also emphasize our belief that a change of direction is possible within South Africa and in South Africa's relations with other countries. Of course, the prospect of change will seem frightening to some, and we must encourage an understanding that it is better to abandon conflict and to enter into partnership with all South Africans, and all the world, than to persist in the present course. Among