

That is our specific mandate, and it reflects real pressure and initiatives against apartheid. In Canada's case alone, our trade with South Africa has been cut in half in two years; our aid has increased by millions of dollars, and extended to new fields like support for court challenges, for political detainees, for trade unions. We have introduced new sanctions, including last week a tightening of the Gleneagles Agreement to affect professional athletes in tennis and golf. We are looking at ways to restore the Limpopo Line. We have raised the sanctions and other issues directly at the Economic Summit, and in other meetings. The Prime Minister has been to southern Africa, and met the leaders of that region, including, in his office in Ottawa, Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress. Those are some actions, in the last three years, by Canada alone.

The point of this Committee is that Canada has not been alone. Nor have the Front Line States. Nor have the individual victims of apartheid. The issues of southern Africa seem to have been thrust forward on the international scene - because, for a quarter of a century, those issues were on the sidelines, and apartheid endured, blighting lives, building tensions, inviting violence. The agency through which those interests have come together most dramatically is this Commonwealth. We are different races working together as equals - the antithesis of apartheid. More than that, we are the family in which South Africa was raised; the family to which South Africa, free of apartheid, would be welcomed home.

Other nations, not on this Committee, have more economic power than the eight countries working together here. But it is becoming clear that the influence of the Commonwealth extends beyond our economic weight. All members of this Committee are conscious of our opportunity and responsibility to demonstrate a leadership which others may follow. Whatever our differences of perspective or prescription, we are together determined to provide that active, constructive leadership.

In February in Lusaka, the Committee identified areas where concrete action could occur. Today and tomorrow we will consider individual new steps which governments of the Commonwealth can adopt. We intend to maintain steady and building pressure until the system of apartheid is ended.

That goal reaches beyond governments, to mobilize individual citizens and organizations.

To that end Canada, as host of this meeting, has organized parallel events here in Toronto. Their theme is "help rekindle the light" of freedom. Today a forum at City Hall will examine censorship and propaganda and give the public a chance to meet and talk with prominent South Africans, and others. A festival of the arts which opened yesterday brings Apartheid and the battle against it into sharp relief.