

Sanctions were imposed to help us end the apartheid system. In the light of what we have, it is only logical that we must continue to apply this form of pressure against the apartheid system. Any move at this stage toward lifting or relaxing international pressure would create a situation in which white South Africa would feel comfortable with the minimal changes that have taken place and once more regress into their opposition where they felt that possible pressure had not reached sufficient strength to oblige them to move forward.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mandela: I would like to take this opportunity to salute the great Canadian people whom you represent and with whom we believe you are in full accord on the question of South Africa. They have proved themselves not only to be steadfast friends of our struggling people but great defenders of human rights and the idea of democracy itself. They are to us like brothers and sisters from whose warm embrace we shall never be parted.

We salute and thank them all: political parties, the anti-apartheid movement, the trade unions, the churches, the native people of this country, non-governmental organizations, students and intellectuals, elected representatives who serve in this Parliament and elsewhere, the press, the children and many others who raised the flag of solidarity because they knew that the absence of freedom for ourselves reduced their own liberty as well.

In this context, I would also like to pay special tribute to the Prime Minister of this country, Brian Mulroney, who has continued along the path charted by Prime Minister Diefenbaker who acted against apartheid because he knew that no person of conscience could stand aside as a crime against humanity was being committed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

• (1200)

Mr. Mandela: Mr. Prime Minister, our people and organization respect and admire you as a friend. We have been greatly strengthened by your personal involvement in the struggle against apartheid tyranny and the leadership you have provided within the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Group of Seven and the franco-phone summits. We are certain that you will, together with the rest of the Canadian people, stay the course

with us, not only as we battle on to end the apartheid system but also as we work to build a happy, peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of South and southern Africa.

Mr. Speakers, that future is still ahead of us. As for now, and to make certain that our common hopes are realized, we must together continue to struggle. We seek your support to sustain the international pressures which you in this country and others in the rest of the world have imposed. We seek your agreement that Canada and the rest of the international community should abide by the perspectives contained in the Harare and United Nations Declaration on South Africa, including the vision of a truly democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

In the aftermath of the agreement we reached with the government at the beginning of last month we also require your support to help us repatriate and resettle those of our compatriots who were forced into exile by the apartheid system. We require your material assistance to help us conduct the extensive political work among the 38 million people of our country which is such a vital and central part of the process of drawing these millions into the common effort to arrive at a just, permanent and negotiated solution of the South African question.

We trust that among other things you will do everything in your power to encourage the people of Canada to contribute to the solidarity fund which has been set up under the leadership of His Grace Archbishop Ted Scott, a great friend of our people and a man I am proud to know.

Mr. Speakers, distinguished representatives of the people of Canada, it has been given to us to be present and to participate in the final struggle to end the evil system of apartheid. An historic moment is in sight. It will not be long now before we, as South Africans, stand up to proclaim that the apartheid fountainhead of racism throughout the world is no more and that political power has passed into the hands of the whole people. These masses must and will exercise this power with all the sensitivity that is due in our situation.

In this context certain matters are as clear as the light of day. Never should racism in our country, from whatever quarter, raise its ugly head again. All of us as South Africans, both black and white, must build a