

"While today's announcements do not denote in any way an end to apartheid, they have significantly improved the prospects for negotiations towards this goal. We urge the South African Government to continue to move forward on this path and end the State of Emergency and other remaining restrictions. We urge all parties to enter negotiations in a spirit of reconciliation and with the clear goal of creating a new non-racial democracy in South Africa."

"President de Klerk's speech deserves and will receive from Canada careful consideration. We will closely monitor the implementation of these measures and other developments in the coming weeks."

In his speech, President de Klerk announced, among other measures, that Nelson Mandela would be freed soon, the African National Congress, Pan-Africanist Congress and South African Communist Party were unbanned, that certain political prisoners would be released, restrictions had been lifted on 33 organizations and 374 individuals, media emergency regulations were abolished except for new security regulations that will control TV and film coverage of unrest incidents, and a moratorium on hangings.