

REGIONAL ISSUES

South Africa

Canada has played a leading role in international efforts to pressure South Africa to dismantle apartheid; enter into negotiations with Black leaders towards the establishment of non-racial, representative government; and allow Namibia its rightful independence. To impress upon the South African government Canada's conviction that it is urgent that real progress be made in achieving fundamental reform, Canada has imposed a series of economic measures mainly in concert with the Commonwealth countries. New bank loans, new investment and imports of agricultural products, uranium, coal, iron and steel have been banned. The sanctions in the US Anti-Apartheid Act of October 1986 roughly parallel the Commonwealth programme. If there is no progress in South Africa, the Prime Minister has said Canada is prepared to invoke total sanctions and even break relations.

Canada also helps the opponents of apartheid in South Africa and supports South Africa's neighbours. Canada provided \$5 million last year for education, community development and legal and humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid. These funds will be increased considerably this year. To help strengthen the economies of South Africa's neighbours and make them less vulnerable to South African pressure, Canada has committed \$40 million annually to the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), the nine-nation regional self-help organization. In addition Canada will provide \$100 million per annum in bilateral aid to its members over the next five years.

Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mulroney, the Commonwealth Heads of Government at their October 1987 meeting in Vancouver decided on a broad programme of action to combat apartheid through sanctions, aid to the region, promotion of dialogue and efforts to counteract South African propaganda and censorship. Canada is also chairing a committee of eight Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, who will meet periodically before the next Commonwealth meeting to provide impetus and guidance to Commonwealth efforts in Southern Africa. The committee will meet in Canada in early August 1988.