

The report at Toronto on South Africa's relationship with the international financial system clearly indicated the effectiveness of financial sanctions in terms of pressure on the country's economy, which we believe can also translate into pressure for political change. In Harare, we will want to find ways of encouraging the wider adoption of the constructive recommendations agreed to at Toronto.

We will also be receiving a progress report on the experts' study on the impact of sanctions. Based on their interim report, we have already been able to make a number of specific suggestions to widen, tighten and intensify sanctions. We must be diligent in encouraging their adoption by Commonwealth members and South Africa's major trading partners. For our part, Canada has taken a number of steps since Toronto to tighten the application of our sanctions, including, for example, extending the ban on sales of high technology items to private sector end-users in South Africa. We will continue to look for effective ways to build pressure for change.

We will also seek new means to reach into South Africa and assist victims and opponents of apartheid, promote dialogue among South Africans and counter South African propaganda and censorship. Those struggling to cope with inadequate education, housing, working conditions and other day-to-day problems resulting from apartheid, deserve our support, both financial and psychological. So do those whose active, non-violent opposition to apartheid has landed them in detention. So do South African labour leaders, who are fighting to preserve what union rights they have won at much cost. Commonwealth countries must continue to provide that support.

An essential prerequisite of peaceful change in South Africa is meaningful dialogue among South Africans of all races. Just last week, lawyers from South Africa, and leaders of the ANC, met here in Harare. There must be more contact of that kind, and this Committee might help.

At the meeting in Toronto our focus was on the use of censorship in South Africa. The Commonwealth working party on this issue has now met and set assistance to the alternative press as a priority. In Canada, we have also gone a long way towards implementing the action plan on countering South African propaganda and censorship, announced at our last meeting. I am pleased that other countries are also developing national action plans.

At this meeting we will have an opportunity to hear views on the latest developments in South Africa by active opponents of apartheid. They will have much to tell us. Since Toronto, the state of emergency has continued to be used to detain without trial non-violent opponents of apartheid, about 1500 to 2000 at present, about ten percent of whom are known to be under 18 years old. Equally debilitating for the opposition is the increasing use of restriction orders which amount to a form of self-policing house arrest.