

Other changes are more significant. Notice has been given that the Separate Amenities Act will be scrapped. Of great long-term importance is the imposition of substantial curbs on the pernicious state security system.

The opposition outside Parliament is working out its own concept of how to construct a non-racial democracy. At every opportunity it reminds the de Klerk government, clearly and forcefully, that apartheid cannot be reformed; it must be abolished. Three million South Africans protested the exclusion of blacks from the September elections by staying away from work. Throughout the autumn, the Mass Democratic Movement organized peaceful and orderly mass protest marches. In December, the Conference for a Democratic Future demonstrated an encouraging degree of unity of purpose among the two thousand organizations represented.

Negotiations will not be easy. Nor will they be short. But they must begin, and the preliminary stages must not be prolonged. It is clear that meaningful negotiations cannot take place as long as legitimate parties to this dialogue are jailed, banned, or otherwise prevented from consulting with their constituencies.

The "Possible Negotiating Concept", drawn up by Archbishop Scott and the other Commonwealth Eminent Persons, called on Pretoria to remove the military from the townships; provide for freedom of assembly and discussion and suspend detention without trial; release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and detainees; unban the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress, and permit normal political activity. It called on the ANC and others to enter into negotiations and suspend violence. That concept remains as valid today as when it was first put forward, and has found resonance in subsequent proposals aimed at creating the necessary climate for negotiations.

For its part, the ANC has indicated, in the 1989 Harare Declaration, its clear preference for a peaceful, negotiated settlement. In the several meetings I have had with ANC leaders, they have confirmed that to me directly. The imperative of a peaceful solution was also recognized by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in our recent discussions in Moscow.

Canada believes it is particularly significant that, last month, a unanimous resolution was adopted at the United Nations Special Session on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

The entire world community joined together in unprecedented fashion to urge that a climate be created in South Africa for genuine negotiations towards a non-racial democratic society, a society based on essential fundamental principles and human rights.

With that consensus declaration, the South African Government can be in no doubt that the world stands united in demanding that negotiations begin with genuine representatives of all the people, unfettered by restrictions, bannings or imprisonment.