

who stand in opposition to it. That could perhaps be done by providing an occasion for exploratory talks. If there are any possibilities for opening the door to peaceful change, we should not be deterred by fear of rebuff.

Nor should we assume South Africa will resist real change forever. The recent actions to allow blacks permanent residence in certain urban areas and suspension of forced removals of blacks, are, at least, a step away from the past. As we urge basic reform, we must also emphasize our belief that a change of direction is possible within South Africa and in South Africa's relations with other countries. Of course, the prospect of change will seem frightening to some, and we must encourage an understanding that it is better to abandon conflict and to enter into partnership with all South Africans, and all the world, than to persist in the present course. Among the duties of the Commonwealth is to keep the light in the window for South Africa, to urge and facilitate reform, yet keep alive the prospect of reconciliation once apartheid is disavowed and undone.