

We want to sell you the world's best water bombers (to put out the fires faster on this beautiful table mountain) and telecommunications and transportation equipment (which we have had to master because of our geography) and much more.

And we will buy your fine wines again, and we hope you will try some of ours, of which we are very proud. And we will see your art, hear your music and watch your plays -- as you will ours. We will welcome your athletes, artists, professors, scientists, students and tourists.

The so-called "people to people" sanctions have already been lifted, and we have the opportunity to develop strong human links between our countries. All now is possible; a promising future beckons. But none of us is naive. The future course is not easy -- it never was.

In fact, Canada and South Africa, though thousands of miles apart, have many of the same issues on their public agendas. We too are dealing with the challenge of accommodating diverse peoples within a sovereign state. We too are addressing problems of adapting our Constitution, resolving the division of powers and protecting the rights of those who feel they have been left out in the past.

The promotion of human rights and the protection of language, gender equality and pluralism -- are social values that challenge us both in their fulfilment. We also face the common challenge of developing transportation and communication systems and of providing economic development for a small population spread out over a vast territory.

But we in Canada have been spared much of the social, economic and political upheaval that has gripped your country for decades.

Your course is more complicated. But its early milestones are clearly evident:

- Difficult negotiations must proceed.
- Agreement must be reached on mechanisms for the transition to democracy.
- The sharing of power must begin.

The benefits of the success of this process will be real and lasting. They include:

- political stability in a democratic culture;
- institutions which serve all the people;