

would be considered in close consultation with other members of the Commonwealth.

Our late Prime Minister, John Diefenbaker, was a leader in the decision by the Commonwealth Conference of 1961 to expel South Africa. He said, at that time, that there would always be a light in the window for South Africa -- an opportunity to resume old ties when apartheid was abandoned, and all South Africans were treated on the same basis under their law and constitution.

That conference of expulsion was nearly a quarter century ago and apartheid continues and violence grows in South Africa, as the revulsion against apartheid grows in my country. We cannot accept that the majority of South Africans should remain on the outside, deprived of dignity and basic human rights, harassed by police, arbitrarily held in detention, denied citizenship, some separated from their families, all deprived of a true voice in their own country's affairs.

These next few weeks seem likely to be marked by more violence within South Africa, and more condemnation outside. The worst result would be for the solitudes to deepen, the violence to grow. The special duty of the Commonwealth and its member Governments is to point the way to reforms that will both end apartheid, and rebuild relations with South Africa.

One can never judge with certainty the weight of international opinion. We must assume that leaders of government and industry in South Africa want their country to live in harmony with others, not in deepening hostility. And we must remember that our practical purpose is to change opinion and behaviour with South Africa.

That requires unflagging firmness in the condemnation of apartheid, and a determination to find ways to bring different parties together toward reform.

I applaud the initiative of Bishop Tutu in offering to meet the President of the Republic of South Africa, and have been encouraged by what appears to be a positive response to that initiative by South African authorities. Other similar actions by South Africa would improve the rate of progress, and reduce the risk of violence.