

marked the beginning of a definitive peace in Cambodia, a major achievement. Here, Canada is prepared to help in what promises to be one of the UN's largest and most complex operations.

In the Middle East, we have reached an historic crossroads where dialogue between parties in the region has finally begun. We can now be cautiously optimistic about the prospects for an enduring peace between Israel and her neighbours, and for a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian question. At my meetings at the United Nations and elsewhere, I have underlined how strongly we support the United States' efforts in convening the Madrid Conference and in nurturing the direct negotiations between the parties concerned. We know that Madrid marked the beginning of what will be a long and difficult process. Canada is prepared to do its share in the multilateral negotiations that will begin shortly.

In South Africa, the direction of reform is also positive. In view of the need to give credit for progress achieved, and to sustain the pressure for further change, the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers, which I have the honour to chair, agreed to recommend to Commonwealth Heads of Government key changes to our sanctions policies. While maintaining economic sanctions and measures in support of the UN arms embargo, we have now lifted people-to-people sanctions, including restrictions on official contacts, parliamentary missions and diplomatic accreditation. Lifting these sanctions will permit Canadians to renew ties of family and friendship with South Africa and encourage the development of stronger links in the cultural, academic and scientific fields to assist in building a strong, just and viable post-apartheid South Africa.

Canada's policy on South Africa is a good example of the constant need for sensitivity and judgment in trying to achieve the right balance. Each case is different, even given the consistency and the context of Canadian objectives.

I attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Harare and represented the Prime Minister at some of the executive sessions. In the final analysis, CHOGM focused on two major issues: South Africa, on which I reported as chair of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers; and human rights, which is now imprinted indelibly upon Commonwealth leaders as one of the underlying principles for the Commonwealth in the 1990s. The Prime Minister was instrumental in sending a clear signal to countries with questionable human rights records that Canada will increasingly take into account in its allocation of