

land, and its inhabitants sit on a powder keg with a very short fuse indeed, ready to blow us all up into kingdom-come. There is endemic unrest, like a festering sore that will not heal until not just the symptoms are treated but the root causes are removed."

Even if the prospects for peaceful, positive change in South Africa sometimes seem hopeless, we cannot afford to give up hope. This United Nations was built on hope for the future. The Charter reflects the faith that a better future can be found through peaceful means. Through the smoke of burning shanty towns in South Africa, we can still see some faint signs of change. Over the cries of the wounded and dying, we can still hear whispers of good will within all elements of South African society. To be sure, the recent constitutional changes really mean that *apartheid* has been embedded even more deeply in the fabric and laws of South Africa. It was all a sorry exercise in tokenism. The testament to that lies in the overwhelming rejection of the new constitutional arrangements by the so-called coloured and Indian communities.

And yet, and paradoxically, a smidgin of encouragement can be found. If a constitution can be changed once, it can be changed again. The art...the object...is to achieve it peacefully before this unjust and implacable system forces a horrific convulsion.

There is some hope to be drawn from the fact that the labour movement, especially among black South African workers, is exerting more economic, and therefore more political, influence. The future prosperity of South Africa, and of all South Africans, can only be assured by the development of an integrated, educated work-force. Urbanization is another powerful contemporary force for change involving all communities in South Africa.

Because the Canadian government still believes — must believe — that peaceful change is possible, our approach incorporates two basic premises. First, the Canadian government and people oppose and abhor *apartheid*. Second, we leave the way open for contacts and dialogue which, in themselves, increase Canada's capacity to encourage some process of change in South Africa.

Allow me briefly to list the measures which the Canadian government has taken to reflect our opposition to *apartheid*:

- Canada does not recognize the governments of the so-called independent "homelands";
- the Canadian embargo on arms and military equipment to South Africa dates back to 1963: we have enforced, and we continue to enforce, the embargo rigorously;
- Canada has ended active trade promotion in South Africa and closed consulates in Johannesburg and Capetown;
- special preferential tariff arrangements for South Africa in the Canadian market were terminated;
- a voluntary code of conduct for Canadian companies was issued concerning their employment practices in South Africa;