

diplomatic persuasion has proven to be ineffective, the Group put the following question to its sponsors:

Is the Commonwealth to stand by and allow the cycle of violence to spiral? Or will it take concerted action of an effective kind? Such action may offer the last opportunity to avert what could be the worst bloodbath since the Second World War."¹

The Heads of Government who sponsored the EPG met on 3-5 August to consider the Report and what action the Commonwealth might take in the light of its conclusions. In Canada, the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations recommended, in its report released several days after the EPG report, that given the EPG's conclusions, "Canada should move immediately to impose full economic sanctions, seek their adoption by the greatest possible number of Commonwealth members, and promote similar action by non-Commonwealth countries."²

On 23 May 1986, the Non-Aligned Movement introduced a resolution in the UN Security Council to impose selective economic and other sanctions on South Africa in response to the raids. Twelve of the fifteen Council members voted in favour of the resolution, but it was defeated on a double veto by Britain and the United States. On 12 June Pretoria declared a new state of emergency.

Canada has opposed apartheid since Prime Minister Diefenbaker participated in the expulsion of South Africa from the Commonwealth in 1961. Government support for bilateral trade was curtailed in 1977 and 1978, and an active aid programme to the Front Line States has been developed through the Canadian International Development Agency. A voluntary Code of Conduct for Canadian companies operating in South Africa was established in 1978.

¹ Mission to South Africa: The Commonwealth Report, (London: Commonwealth Secretariat, 1986), p. 68.

² SJCCIR, Independence and Internationalism, 1986, p. 110.