

Canadian foreign commitments reaffirmed

Canada's strong commitment to the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Western Alliance were reasserted by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney while attending a number of important international meetings with other world leaders during the last two weeks of October.

The meetings included the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Nassau; the anniversary of the United Nations in New York; meetings with leaders of the Western industrialized nations prior to the summit between US President Ronald Reagan and USSR General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev; and bilateral meetings with world leaders in Nassau and New York.

Common Commonwealth program

In his opening statement to the Commonwealth leaders and representatives in Nassau, Mr. Mulroney said that Commonwealth countries must find "a common program of action to enable Commonwealth countries to signal together — without exception — that worldwide pressure against South Africa will be sustained until *apartheid* is ended".

As a result of the discussions during the conference, Mr. Mulroney said that "all participants agreed on the urgency of the situation in South Africa, the rightness of the struggle against *apartheid* and the need for a common and united front".

Commonwealth accord

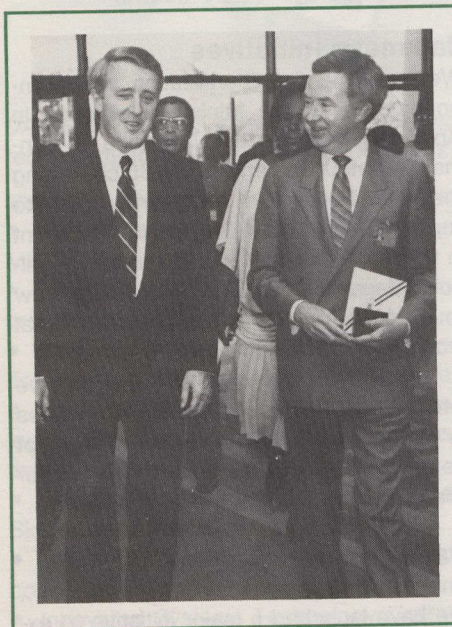
An accord, agreed to by all 49 Commonwealth leaders, was issued at the conclusion of the conference. It calls for the authorities in Pretoria to:

- take specific and meaningful actions to dismantle the system of *apartheid*;
- end the existing state of emergency;
- release Nelson Mandela and all others imprisoned and detained for their opposition to *apartheid*, immediately and unconditionally;
- establish political freedom and lift the existing ban on the African National Congress and other political parties; and
- initiate a process of dialogue across lines of colour, politics and religion with a view to establishing a non-racial and representative government.

Commonwealth support for the strictest enforcement of the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa as well as for the Gleneagles agreement of 1977 barring official sport contacts were also reaffirmed. Additional common economic measures against South Africa agreed to by the Commonwealth leaders included:

- a ban on all new government loans;

- a readiness to unilaterally take possible action to preclude the import of *krugerrands*;
- no government funding for trade missions or for participation in exhibitions and trade fairs in South Africa;
- a ban on the sale and export of computer equipment capable of use by South Africa military forces, police or security forces;
- a ban on new contracts for nuclear goods, materials and technology;
- a ban on the sale and export of oil;



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (left) with Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark at the Commonwealth conference in Nassau.

- a strict and rigorously controlled embargo on imports of arms, ammunition, military vehicles and para-military equipment from South Africa;
- an embargo on all military co-operation with South Africa; and
- discouragement of all cultural and scientific events except where these contribute towards the ending of *apartheid* or have no possible role in promoting it.

Monitoring the situation

In addition to the common measures, the leaders agreed to establish a small group of "eminent Commonwealth persons" to "encourage through all practicable ways the evolution of that necessary process of political dialogue to contribute to peaceful change and avoid the dreadful prospect of violent conflict that looms over South Africa". Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was recommended by Mr. Mulroney as Canada's candidate for the group.

The prime minister also agreed to parti-

cipate with the president of Zambia, and the prime ministers of Australia, Bahamas, India, Britain and Zimbabwe, in a co-ordinating group of Commonwealth leaders, to oversee the work of the contact group and to monitor progress towards the dismantling of *apartheid*. They expect to meet in six months to review the situation in South Africa.

Mr. Mulroney said that if the response by South Africa is positive, the Commonwealth will closely monitor both the nature and pace of reform. If the response is negative, however, "then we will have no recourse but to consider additional sanctions against South Africa, either in concert with other Commonwealth countries, or alone", he said.

Economic considerations

Another major issue considered by Commonwealth leaders was the current international economic situation.

In the lead statement on this issue, Mr. Mulroney reported that at the recent World Bank/International Monetary Fund meetings in Seoul, Canada was successful in maintaining preferential lending conditions under the International Development Association for smaller Commonwealth Caribbean countries. He also stated that Canada would increase resources for the integration of women's concerns in Commonwealth activities.

In addition, Mr. Mulroney advised Commonwealth leaders that Canada would contribute \$50 million over the next three years to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

Caribbean leaders meeting

In Nassau, Mr. Mulroney met with the leaders of the Commonwealth Caribbean, to advise them that Canada has responded with a wide variety of practical and concrete measures to their request in Jamaica last February for co-operation in dealing with trade problems

They include:

- the establishment of a one way, duty-free trade arrangement that will cover 99 per cent of Caribbean exports to Canada;
- an amendment to Canadian legislation that will permit the bottling of unblended rum in Canada;
- the development of a sourcing directory of Commonwealth Caribbean manufacturing and export capacity to assist Caribbean exports to Canada;
- the establishment of a system to enable Caribbean trade commissioners access to all area offices of the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion; and
- 50 new scholarships in Canada for students from the Commonwealth Caribbean area.