

Zimbabwe has suffered both directly from South African aggression and just as significantly from South African pressure and interference. So have the other states of the front line. There is no reason for anyone to assume that South Africa's intentions have changed. Destabilization is a long-term process. It waxes. It wanes. It turns from one target to others. But we have to work on the assumption that it will not disappear until the system of apartheid itself is dismantled.

Yesterday, Mr. President, your Foreign Minister took me to see buildings bombed here in Harare. Earlier I visited a Zimbabwe company plant that used to import Canadian sulphur by way of Maputo, but had to change that route, because destabilization made the line no longer safe. Eighteen months ago, in Mozambique, I spoke with a Canadian doctor who had been working in a rural clinic, built to help people, which had become a target of terrorists. The destruction is one thing. The atmosphere of uncertainty, of not knowing who will be the next target, is equally destabilizing.

We will be looking at a detailed report of destabilization practices and the consequential costs incurred by the Front Line States. General Obasanjo's earlier Commonwealth-initiated report on the security needs of the Front Line States provided a very useful set of recommendations. We will be examining here how we, as Commonwealth countries, can help enhance security in this region. Many countries make substantial contributions to that process now. In September Canada announced changes in our policy which help the Front Line States, in particular Mozambique, try to cope with security threats.

It is tragic to ponder the staggering costs of apartheid and its poisonous partner of destabilization. That cost - both human and economic - is enormous. The whole of Southern Africa is full of potential. It could truly be the economic powerhouse of the entire continent. But instead of building on that potential, the white minority in South Africa allows policies that hold back the whole region, that cripple the powerhouse.

The world is looking for ways to bring supporters of apartheid to their senses. Our Committee, I believe, will continue to make a valuable contribution in the use of sanctions as pressure for change.

Here, at Harare, we will examine closely means to strengthen the United Nations arms embargo, an important United Nations sanction.