

National Congress (ANC) and releasing from prison its leader Nelson Mandela are two of the steps called for in the Commonwealth Accord, such high level contacts should certainly include the ANC. (page 110)

Response

The government believes that expanding dialogue with high level representatives of black political organizations in South Africa, including the African National Congress, should be part of a Canadian strategy of encouraging the replacement of the apartheid system with one where all South Africans can live in freedom, equality, and harmony. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has already met with ANC officials and has indicated his willingness to meet with them again. Part of the purpose of such a dialogue is to encourage non-violent solutions and an understanding on the part of black leaders of the strength of the Western commitment to promoting the dismantling of apartheid.

Conclusion/Recommendation

96. Canada should continue to provide generous amounts of direct assistance and support international efforts, such as those of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, to help South Africa's vulnerable neighbours cope with the economic difficulties that international sanctions directed at South Africa will create for them as well as to overcome punitive measures that the South African Government might direct against them. (page 110)

Response

Canada now provides close to \$100 million each year to vulnerable countries in the region, bilaterally and through the Southern Africa Development Coordination Committee (SADCC). Funds are also channelled through private groups and international organizations. Our objective is to reduce the dependence of these countries on South Africa. The government plans to increase its disbursements to SADCC over the next five years and is consulting with Commonwealth partners regarding the most effective assistance to the Front Line States.

Central America

Conclusion/Recommendation

97. A majority of the committee believes that it must be stressed that U.S. policy has been designed, in part, to counter other foreign military intervention in Central America and that Canada should oppose outside intervention in Central America by all countries. (page 112)

Response

The government disapproves of both the export of revolution and third party intervention in Central America. It has strongly backed the regionally-based Contadora initiative. Canada supports the idea of a dialogue between Honduras and Nicaragua and the resumption of dialogue between the USA and Nicaragua, as well as talks between the government of Nicaragua and its opposition.