

It is clear nonetheless that international pressure is beginning to be felt. There is no doubt that economic sanctions increase the cost of maintaining apartheid. Even more, however, sanctions and other measures demonstrate the repugnance that people everywhere feel towards apartheid. There are major psychological effects. To the opponents of apartheid these measures demonstrate that they are not alone, that their cause is shared by the world, and that there is a basis for hope. To those who try to excuse apartheid it is a reminder that the principles of rights and freedoms which underlie the civilized conduct of human beings can never justify the practice of apartheid.

There are other hopeful signs. More individuals in the white community are accepting the inevitability of change and are increasingly willing to take initiatives to engage in dialogue with real leaders of the majority. The Dakar meeting was an example. The international community must help this process continue and the Commonwealth must contribute.

The international community must help the victims of apartheid in South Africa. Programs to provide comfort, both psychological and material, to help overcome the additional suffering imposed on those who dare to try to bring about change, are essential for humanitarian reasons. Even more important, they are a practical demonstration to those involved in the struggle to change South Africa that the world supports their cause and cares about their fate.

South Africa's neighbours suffer terribly. The Commonwealth, and the international community in general, must help insulate the front line states from South African pressure and increase their security. The Ministerial Consultative Meeting of the Southern African Development Consultative Conference made abundantly clear the seriousness of the problems involved and the effort that will be required.

While making these efforts, it is important that pressure on South Africa to end its callous disregard of the territorial integrity of its neighbours must be maintained and intensified. The independence of Namibia must remain a major objective on the international agenda. We must find new ideas to break the present impasse.