

As Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, I want to express Canada's recognition of and admiration for the progress that has been made toward democracy and our strong support for future efforts. During my visit, I have had broad discussions on the status and progress of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations and the prospects for agreement on mechanisms for the transition to democracy.

I will also be sharing my findings with my Commonwealth colleagues.

As you know, Commonwealth leaders at Harare made the sharing of power a major condition for relief of trade and investment sanctions, and I chair the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers, which is responsible for this assessment.

I know that my Commonwealth colleagues share my hope and expectation that through CODESA, agreement on transitional mechanisms will be reached, leading to further normalization of our relationships.

As a Canadian, I have been pleased to learn during my visit that, despite our differences and tensions over the years, Canada is held in high regard in South Africa.

And from those South Africans whose views on apartheid we have shared through the years, I am heartened to learn that in their minds Canada made a material difference in the prospects and pace of reform.

But now we must look to the future. I would like most energetically to explore the bases for new, much closer links between our two countries, greater trade and economic relations, political co-operation and extensive contacts between our peoples.

Our two countries are natural multilateral partners, linked by size, economic orientation, language and significant shared background. We will be able to work well together in the United Nations and its special agencies, and in the Commonwealth. We need to work together on the environment, on arms control and on ending famine in Africa. And there is vast scope for bilateral co-operation between our peoples.

In many ways our economies are complementary. We are both exporters of natural resources, struggling to maintain our market share in an increasingly competitive trading environment. We need to work together in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to strengthen the rules of international trade and ensure continued market access in a world of monolithic trading blocs.