

emphasized our firm belief in the inevitability of self-determination for those people who comprise the majority of South Africans, and in the need for all reasonable means to be taken to advance the development of this process.

Events in South Africa since then, and particularly in the last several months, have dramatically underlined the fact that the time available for achieving peaceful change in the situation is rapidly running out. It is clear to my Government that the continuing disturbances in Soweto and elsewhere in South Africa are not the results of outside instigation, as the Government of South Africa contends, but reflect the profound discontent and frustration of the majority of South Africans. The causes of this state of affairs and the need to bring about fundamental changes are self-evident. There are some signs that this truth may now be recognized by an increasing number of people within the white minority itself.

However, the Government of South Africa continues to be blind to reality. In October 1974, in the Security Council, the South African representative announced his Government's intention to do away with any discrimination based on race. Instead of taking steps to eliminate progressively its racially discriminatory laws and practices (as some observers had hoped it would last year), that Government instead last spring deemed it necessary to introduce even more restrictive legislation to counteract dissent. Seemingly oblivious to the continuing deterioration of its domestic as well as international position it has obstinately proceeded with its policy of "Bantustanization".

The most dismaying indication of the extent of the Government of South Africa's inability to understand the forces in motion in South Africa today is its handling of the disturbances which began last June and which have continued almost without break. It is difficult for us to comprehend the severity of the measures it has taken against its own people. My Government was appalled by the violence that led to the deaths of over 170 persons (including many children) in three days. My Government can far more easily understand the frustrations and discontent which underlay this expression of massive dissent than it can ever hope to understand the cruel and insensitive reaction of the South African Government, which quite properly earned the condemnation of the United Nations Security Council and the international community. Canada considered it necessary to inform the South African Government directly of its shock at the severity of that Government's reprisals and of Canada's conviction that such developments were clearly the result of the repressive *apartheid* policies.

Since June, the situation has deteriorated even further. Discontent has been manifested in more violent, more frequent and more widespread demonstrations. Over 300 protesters have been killed and many hundreds more have been wounded by the agents of that Government. Paralleling this misuse of the civil power, that Government also has utilized massive political repression by arresting thousands of "potential" dissenters, some on very flimsy grounds indeed. The South African Government has even found it necessary to arrest several newspapermen both black and white, whose "crime", it would appear, was to report the reality of the troubled South African racial situation.

It is clear that the recent course of events in South Africa has ominous implications for the prospects of peace in that country. For those of us still anxious to encourage peaceful change in South Africa, there yet remains some hope that the situation may not degenerate progressively into outright civil war. Increasingly, reports from that unhappy country indicate that important elements of the ruling minority are profoundly in disagreement with their Government's policies and are calling for improvement. Despite the heavy cost in lives, the African majority is courageously refusing to submit any longer. Even those of their spokesmen to whom that Government consents to listen, the "Bantustan" leaders, have clearly expressed their total rejection of the government's policies. The growing weight of international censure is increasingly being felt.

We recognize that our hope for peaceful solutions is a tenuous one. It is quite simply founded upon the belief that the present Government of South Africa and its supporters cannot, in their own long-term interests, continue to be blind to the need to face reality. Nevertheless, we are not encouraged by statements such as that delivered by Prime Minister Vorster on October 13, 1976, rejecting calls for changes. We must intensify our pressures on the South African Government to head the cries for justice within and without its borders.

We have heard during the past few weeks appeals for the true friends of Africa, and of the majority people of Southern Africa, to stand up and be counted. Canadians count themselves among the true friends of Africa.

We show our friendship and concern for Southern Africa in a very tangible way. Canada is one of the most important supporters of, and contributors to, United Nations and other multilateral funds which have been established to assist the African peoples of Southern Africa. Our contribution to these funds in the present year amount to more than \$800,000. Our bilateral programs of development assistance to the countries of Southern Africa, namely Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique, are now in the order of \$54,000,000