

These next few weeks seem likely to be marked by more violence within South Africa, and more condemnation outside. The worst result would be for the solitudes to deepen, the violence to grow. The special duty of the Commonwealth and its member governments is to point the way to reforms that will both end *apartheid*, and rebuild relations with South Africa.

One can never judge with certainty the weight of international opinion. We must assume that leaders of government and industry in South Africa want their country to live in harmony with others, not in deepening hostility. And we must remember that our practical purpose is to change opinion and behaviour within South Africa.

That requires unflagging firmness in the condemnation of *apartheid*, and a determination to find ways to bring different parties together toward reform.

I applaud the initiative of Bishop Tutu in offering to meet the president of the Republic of South Africa, and have been encouraged by what appears to be a positive response to that initiative by South African authorities. Other similar actions by South Africa, would improve the rate of progress, and reduce the risk of violence.

Serious dialogue must begin with leaders who have the trust of the black community. The release of Nelson Mandela, and his involvement in such a serious dialogue, would be a significant step towards trust and peaceful reform.

The Government of Canada urges South Africa to stop the arrests and end the detention without trial of those who have called for, and participated in, non-violent protests. Imprisoning hundreds is no way to start a dialogue. Those who are detained, and forced to be silent, cannot contribute to reconciliation, or help to achieve a true and equal partnership. In the interests of peaceful change, and as a prelude to genuine dialogue, we urge the Government of South Africa to state clearly now that its objective is to end *apartheid*, and to replace it by a system based on full partnership and equality.

No one mistakes the determination of the Commonwealth to end *apartheid*. There is no doubt that determination remains sharp and clear. We have a particular responsibility now, as events take new momentum, and the choice is between violent and non-violent reform. It is to explore every avenue that may lead quickly to reform, and to use our special influence and experience to prepare the way for progress, after *apartheid* is ended.

Particular steps may commend themselves to the Commonwealth as an organization. It may wish to explore whether it, or some of its members, can contribute to opening that dialogue between the South African Government, and those who stand in opposition to it. That could perhaps be done by providing an occasion for exploratory talks. If there are any possibilities for opening the door to peaceful change, we should not be deterred by fear of rebuff.

Nor should we assume South Africa will resist real change for ever. The recent actions to allow blacks permanent residence in certain urban areas and suspension of forced removals of blacks, are, at least,