

would however continue in force until a new post-apartheid South African Government was firmly established, with full democratic control and accountability.

18. In lifting all economic sanctions, Heads of Government endorsed the appeals by President de Klerk and Mr. Nelson Mandela for foreign investment in and increased trade with South Africa to help overcome the social and economic legacy of apartheid.

19. But in welcoming the progress made at the negotiations, Heads of Government also recognised that the process remained fragile. A number of parties had withdrawn from the negotiations and the opposition from the extreme right wing to the transitional process in general and to the establishment of the TEC in particular had become more pronounced in recent months. In the face of all that, Heads of Government agreed that the pre-eminent need was to help safeguard the process so as to ensure that a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa emerged from it. They called on all parties to ensure that agreements reached in the multi-party negotiations were adhered to, to put an end to violence and participate fully in the emerging democratic life of their country.

20. Heads of Government looked forward to a new democratic South Africa where, as an affirmation of its total repudiation of the apartheid past, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its people would be fully respected. They agreed that, in keeping with its own ethos and the principles of its Harare Declaration, the Commonwealth would render whatever assistance it could to ensure the promotion of those rights in the interest of the stability and orderly development of the new South Africa.

21. Heads of Government noted that the Commonwealth Observer Mission to South Africa (COMSA), which had been in the country since October 1992, had made an important and widely acknowledged contribution towards helping to stem the violence, reconcile communities, return refugees and initiate socio-economic reconstruction. They commended the work of the Mission and agreed that it should remain in South Africa until after the election planned for April 1994 when the situation would be reviewed in consultation with the new, democratically elected government.

22. Heads of Government recognised the historic significance of the April 1994 election. But they also recognised the difficulties in the way of a free and fair election in view of the prevailing circumstances in the country. They therefore agreed that a sizeable international observer presence would be indispensable if confidence in the process was to be assured and the people of South Africa enabled to cast a valid ballot. They saw a Commonwealth Election Observer Group as an important component of that wider international