

in 1988. Canada has given substantial support to the United Nations' programs to assist South African and Namibian refugees. The country is also very active in efforts to strengthen the economies of South Africa's neighbours and to make them less vulnerable to South African pressure. In fact, Canada has committed \$40 million annually to the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference, the nine-nation regional self-help organization, and \$100 million annually in bilateral aid to its members.

Economic and other measures taken by Canada to pressure South Africa to dismantle *apartheid* are equally directed at inducing South Africa to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 — the only universally accepted framework for Namibian independence.

In 1977, Canada and four other Western members of the Security Council formed a "Contact Group" to help draw up a plan for Namibia's independence and to negotiate its acceptance by South Africa. The plan, embodied in Resolution 435 of 1978, provides for the election and convening of a constituent assembly to adopt a constitution for an independent Namibia. Although South Africa accepts this settlement plan in principle, it has failed to proceed with its implementation, continuing instead to occupy Namibia illegally. Canada, which has consistently pressed South Africa to end its occupation, stands ready to assist in the implementation of the UN plan, and in the meantime continues to provide aid to Namibians directly and through the UN.

With Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in the chair, the Commonwealth Heads of Government decided, at their October 1987 meeting in Vancouver, on a broad program of action to combat *apartheid* through sanctions, aid to the region, and promotion of dialogue and efforts to counteract South African propaganda and censorship.

Canada has played a leading role in international efforts to bring an end to apartheid.

Canada is also chairing a committee of eight Commonwealth foreign ministers, who will meet periodically before the next Commonwealth meeting to provide high-level impetus and guidance to Commonwealth efforts on Southern Africa. The committee met first in Lusaka, Zambia, in February 1988 and will meet again in Canada in early August 1988.

The Commonwealth and its committee complement the work that other countries and organizations — the UN in particular — are doing in the battle against *apartheid*.

Apartheid will be dismantled — the challenge is to ensure that this happens as quickly and as peacefully as possible.

The work of the UN Commission on Human Rights is of great importance. It helps to remind the world that *apartheid* systematizes racial discrimination and inequities that are fundamentally inconsistent with the principles upon which human rights are based. It helps to focus world attention on the systematic repression that continues to be used by the Government of South Africa to quash the social and political unrest that arises in response to *apartheid*. The world must remain conscious of the fact that in South Africa the government jails those who seek change

peacefully rather than negotiates with them. This demonstrates clearly the moral bankruptcy of the *apartheid* system.

The commission's work is all the more important since instead of allowing constructive debate, the Government of South Africa has strengthened its instruments of censorship and propaganda in what ultimately will be an unsuccessful campaign to blind the world to the truth about *apartheid*.

Canada is committed to continue its work with this commission and with other multi-lateral organizations to focus attention on the cruelties of *apartheid* and to pressure South Africa into dismantling that system and bringing about fundamental change.

South Africa's abhorrent system of *apartheid*, or institutionalized racism.

