

THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD WILL BE MARKED, ON OUR SIDE, BY A CONTINUED SEARCH FOR STEPS THAT MAY HELP TO BRING JUSTICE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND GREATER HARMONY TO THE REGION. FOR CANADA THAT SEARCH WILL CENTRE ON CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR PARTNERS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, BUT PARTICULARLY ON THE COMMONWEALTH. NOR DO WE EXCLUDE TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA IF THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN AND WE CAN INFLUENCE EVENTS.

SEVEN OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CLOSE NEIGHBOURS ARE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, AND AN EIGHTH - NAMIBIA - HAS BEEN INVITED TO JOIN. THEIR PEOPLE ARE CLOSELY LINKED; THEIR ECONOMIES ARE DEEPLY DEPENDENT ON ONE ANOTHER; THEIR SECURITY AND STANDING CANNOT BE SEPARATED.

THERE CAN BE NO PEACE IN THE REGION WHILE SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS AT ODDS WITH ITS COMMONWEALTH NEIGHBOURS, AND THEY LIVE IN FEAR OF IT. APARTHEID IS A COMMONWEALTH PROBLEM. THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER THE COMMONWEALTH HAS A ROLE: BY FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCE, IT MUST BE CONCERNED AND INVOLVED.

AND MORE THAN THAT. THE COMMONWEALTH HAS TRADITIONS, AND HISTORIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, THAT HAVE PREPARED IT TO PLAY A RECONCILING PART IF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA OPENS THE DOOR TO