

South Africa

Conclusions/Recommendations

92. If the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons had reported that significant but insufficient progress was occurring in dismantling apartheid, the Committee had agreed to recommend that Canada take the lead in preparing a further Commonwealth action plan consisting of specific sanctions such as those listed in clause 7 of the Commonwealth Accord of October 1985. (page 110)

93. Now that the Group of Eminent Persons has reported – as we feared it would – that no significant progress is occurring in dismantling apartheid, Canada should move immediately to impose full economic sanctions, seek their adoption by the greatest possible number of Commonwealth members, and promote similar action by non-Commonwealth countries. (page 110)

Response

The government is in the forefront of major industrialized countries in applying economic sanctions. It could foresee the possibility of implementing full economic sanctions on its own if there is no significant progress in eliminating apartheid and if more effective concerted action is not forthcoming. In the meantime, the government has adopted a step-by-step approach to the imposition of limited sanctions as a more fruitful tactic that will strike at apartheid without destroying the South African economy on which the blacks depend. It also provides time for concerted action with our allies and the public and gives us influence with other Western countries which the immediate unilateral application of full economic sanctions would not.

Conclusion/Recommendation

94. In any event, we strongly urge establishment of a black South African human rights and democratic development program. Canada established a scholarship program for black South Africans in 1983 and has since expanded it. We strongly support this approach and encourage further efforts to assist in building black social, economic and political institutions towards the day when black South Africans will exercise their full rights as citizens. (page 110)

Response

The government has a \$7 million educational assistance program over three years to develop future black leadership, a \$1 million program for families of political detainees, a \$350,000 program for promoting the economic development of blacks and support groups working for peaceful dismantlement of apartheid as well as supporting various non-governmental organizations' efforts in this area. The government is also exploring other avenues of assistance to support black social, economic, and political institutions, particularly through technical and financial assistance and programs of exchange.

Conclusion/Recommendation

95. We encourage the government to expand direct contacts at the highest levels with black political organizations in South Africa. Bearing in mind that lifting the ban on the African