

This week you are confronting this task head-on through your meetings on the crucial issue of Human Resource Development for a post-apartheid South Africa. The Commonwealth has played a catalytic role in developing an international response to the challenge of apartheid. It is equally active in preparing for the next chapter of South African history. It was at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting in Canberra, in 1989, that the Skills for South Africa Network was conceived; its objective is the linking and mobilization of non-governmental organizations throughout the Commonwealth to provide training and work experience for black South Africans.

And it was at the Abuja Meeting a year ago that Commonwealth Foreign Ministers commissioned the Experts Group to review the human resource development needs of a post-apartheid South Africa. Your work has assumed a high priority for the Commonwealth. I have every expectation that it will loom large once again at our next meeting in Delhi and at the Heads of Government meeting in Harare. I know that your findings will resonate not only in the Commonwealth but beyond its borders to all those committed to supporting South Africa in the crucial years ahead. I hope that your dialogue this week with distinguished South African experts on education will help them in their task of setting priorities and mobilizing resources for education and training. Most important, you are creating an atmosphere of hope in Southern Africa, by reassuring South Africans that they will not be forgotten in the next crucial stage of nation-building.

As a Canadian, I am particularly proud of the leadership of John Harker as Chairman of the Expert Group and Archbishop Ted Scott as Chairman of the Skills for South Africa Network. I am equally proud of the many Canadian organizations actively involved in human resource development in South Africa. With your indulgence, I want to mention briefly what the Canadian government is doing to help. In 1985, we launched the first phase of the Canadian Education Program for South Africa. It was then valued at \$8.2 million and was made up of four components: internal scholarships; small-scale initiatives in areas such as adult education and alternative schooling; labour education; and the in-Canada scholarship and training program. That latter program is implemented by the Southern Africa Education Trust Fund chaired by Archbishop Scott. Here in Canada, all levels of government, trade unions, business, universities and other institutions have risen to the challenge and offered, through the Trust Fund, work experience and educational opportunities to disadvantaged South Africans. The provision of placements and "in-kind" support has had a ripple effect that has involved many ordinary Canadians, and in turn increased public understanding and support for other Canadian and Commonwealth measures. The