

It is customary for a speaker to congratulate the organizers of a Conference, but I hope you will not consider it merely custom for me to praise your determination to broaden the coalition against apartheid.

What is new today is not the evil of the apartheid system, nor the moral outrage it arouses, but rather the fact that world opinion is crystalizing now in a way that no regime in Pretoria can ignore. Our challenge is to find effective and sustained measures to build that pressure for change. Obviously, that will require continued new actions by Governments, but we should recognize that the strength of the pressure so far has been its growing base in international opinion. Pretoria can attempt to dismiss political actions by known adversaries, but it cannot ignore a consensus that steadily includes new critics, some of them silent or acquiescent before, some of them motivated by the calculation that apartheid, as well as being morally wrong, is bad for business. In that context, I want to discuss some of the challenges we face in broadening the consensus in Canada against apartheid.

But before I do that, let me repeat the position of this Government of Canada. It was stated, clearly and early, by the Prime Minister in the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 23, 1985. Let me quote two key sentences:

"... If there are not fundamental changes in South Africa, we are prepared to invoke total sanctions against that country and its repressive regime. If there is no progress in the dismantling of apartheid, our relations with South Africa may have to be severed absolutely."

In that spirit, the Prime Minister played a leading role in the Commonwealth meetings in Nassau and London, and we have raised the issue of apartheid at the Economic Summit, the founding meeting of La Francophonie, and in countless bilateral meetings. Canada has acted on all the Commonwealth sanctions drawn up at Nassau and London. That means we ban airline links, new investment,