

But there is another point to be made here. The fight against apartheid is also important for the future of relations between the developed and the developing world. To a degree which must not be underestimated, the Third World regards attitudes towards apartheid as a crucial test of our commitment to the values we profess.

The Communist experiment in Africa has been a failure - as it has failed in Eastern Europe and in the USSR. The African continent and countries in other developing regions are open as never before to values and institutions closer to our own. There is a welcome new pragmatism - a new realism which challenges the hackneyed and sterile slogans of failed ideologies.

If we betray the future of a multi-racial South Africa, our ability to sustain reasoned dialogue with the developing world will suffer. Our morals will be judged hollow, mere cant disguising greed and self-interest.

And that will have consequences elsewhere - on the environment, on debt, on drugs, on terrorism.

The search for a realistic global dialogue on those issues where the very survival of the West requires co-operation with the Third World will be dealt a blow.

The atmosphere of the struggle against apartheid has been clouded by emotion - and by the very prejudice which lies at the heart of the problem. There have been too many slogans and too many smug answers; too much distrust and too little dialogue.

But when one clears away the clouds of rhetoric, there is one single, compelling statement of fact. And it is this: for South Africa, there are but two futures.

The first is a South Africa destroyed, impoverished through strife and bloodied by a racial war so horrific that recovery will take decades.

The second future is a South Africa coming to its senses just in time, ushering in an era of multi-racial co-operation. A South Africa which at last joined the rest of the modern world.

Of one thing we can be sure. The present state of affairs cannot persist into the future.