

the resulting instability in the region in the period since 1980 had caused the death of 1.5 million people, no less than four million made homeless, several thousand disabled, and material damage estimated at some US\$45 billion.

11. The Committee was particularly concerned that Mozambique continued to suffer from the ravages of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance (MNR). The Committee applauded the initiative of the Government of Mozambique to achieve peace and national reconciliation and in this connection called upon Pretoria to show by deed that it had truly abandoned its support for the rebel MNR.

12. The Committee denounced South Africa's campaign of destabilisation against its neighbours and saw in that campaign a major contributory factor in the regions' economic problems. In this regard the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), with its objectives of promoting regional self-reliance and economic independence from South Africa, deserved increased support and encouragement.

13. The Committee also welcomed the outcome of the Gbadolite summit of 20 June and pledged its support for the African initiative to help bring about peace and genuine national reconciliation in Angola. The Committee also welcomed a similar initiative being mounted in the case of Mozambique.

### **Sanctions**

14. Recent developments in South Africa have reaffirmed the Committee's belief that sanctions are having an increasing economic and political impact. It saw evidence of a heightened recognition within the white community that in the absence of fundamental political change, South Africa's relationship with the world was unlikely to improve and that the economy and living standards would continue to deteriorate under the pressure of trade and financial sanctions. If Pretoria did, indeed, turn towards the dismantling of apartheid, sanctions would have contributed to forcing that change. The Committee was united in the belief that sanctions would need to be sustained, and intensified, until progress in that direction became irreversible.

15. In that context, the Committee noted that Pretoria had not taken any of the steps Commonwealth leaders had urged at Nassau in October 1985, namely: to declare that the system of apartheid will be dismantled and specific and meaningful action taken in fulfilment of that intent; terminate the existing state of emergency; release immediately and unconditionally Nelson Mandela and all others imprisoned and detained for their opposition to apartheid; establish political freedom and specifically lift the existing ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and other political parties; and to initiate, in the context of a suspension of violence on all sides, a process of dialogue across lines of colour, politics and religion, with a view to establishing a non-racial and representative government.

16. The Committee reiterated its conviction, confirmed by its further consultations with several black South African leaders, that most black South Africans continued to look principally to sanctions for pressure on Pretoria for peaceful change. Sanctions, in the Committee's view, remained the most effective peaceful path to the ending of apartheid.