

SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE WAY AHEAD: BRITAIN'S VIEW

BRITAIN IS FULLY AT ONE WITH THE REST OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN UTTERLY CONDEMNING APARTHEID AND WISHING TO SEE ITS TOTAL ERADICATION SO THAT ALL THE INHABITANTS OF SOUTH AFRICA CAN LIVE IN DIGNITY AND PLAY A FULL PART IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRY.

BRITAIN WELCOMES THE RECOGNITION IN THE KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT:

- THAT CHANGE IS UNDERWAY IN SOUTH AFRICA;
- THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE PUNITIVE AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL NEED TO RESPOND TO EVIDENCE OF CLEAR AND IRREVERSIBLE CHANGE; AND
- THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF VIOLENCE FROM EITHER SIDE.

BUT BRITAIN BELIEVES THE COMMONWEALTH CAN HELP A NEW SOUTH AFRICA TO EMERGE IN MUCH MORE POSITIVE WAYS THAN THOSE SET OUT ~~IN THE KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT.~~

IN BRITAIN'S VIEW THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT AND POSITIVE CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN VANCOUVER. SEVENTY PER CENT OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS VOTED FOR CHANGE IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS AND THERE IS NOW A GOVERNMENT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF NEGOTIATIONS. PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY THE BLACK MAJORITY HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND EIGHT OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHOSE RELEASE