

TRANSCRIPT OF OPENING REMARKS BY  
THE HONOURABLE BARBARA McDOUGALL,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
AT CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE OF  
COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA  
SEPTEMBER 14, 1991, NEW DELHI

Thank you very much for the introduction, and, at the risk of being repetitive, I too would like to begin by thanking Foreign Minister Solanki and the Indian government for their wonderful hospitality in New Delhi. And also to point out that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) here in 1983 was the one that defined our common objective as a Commonwealth on South Africa in terms of the establishment of non-racial democracy, so that the results of our meeting today, I think, have brought us full circle from that meeting in 1983. I also want to thank the Secretary General, Chief Anyaoku, who I think has been an enormous support and also his staff who worked hard not only on the preparations for the meeting, but also on the substance and process, and I think much of our success is due to him.

In my opening speech, which was circulated and therefore which you all read, I said that Canada hoped this Committee would emerge with a view that reflects with some sensitivity the many challenges and opportunities offered by a South Africa in transition. And also an approach that would both give credit where it was due and sustains the pressure for further change.

We have accomplished exactly that.

There is now, for the first time, in place a program for the removal of sanctions in South Africa as the situation evolves. Following a careful and thoughtful review, this Committee has recognized that there has been a significant change, therefore we are now recommending to our Heads of Government who will meet in just three weeks in Harare that people-to-people sanctions be removed now.

These include:

- consular and visa restrictions on South Africans;
- boycotts on cultural and scientific contacts;
- restrictions on tourism promotion; and
- the ban on direct air links.

At the same time, we have recognized that much remains to be done to abolish fully apartheid and to bring about a democratic government in a new South Africa. As a result, we have recommended that CHOGM maintain the Commonwealth's economic and trade sanctions until all parties in South Africa are able to participate fully and effectively in negotiations.