

Small States

14. Heads of Government heard with interest a report by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Small States which had held its first meeting on 24 October in Limassol. Noting Ministers' conviction that their meeting had been a useful one which had enabled them to address the implications of recent international events for small states' development and security, they endorsed the Group's view that further meetings should be held in the wings of CHOGMs and other major international conferences as appropriate. They welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to convene a consultative group of senior officials to meet in London between further ministerial meetings. They also endorsed Ministers' recommendation that the Secretariat should continue to provide support to Commonwealth small states, particularly in relation to the forthcoming Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States.

Southern Africa

15. Heads of Government were of the view that the international community should continue to give all possible support and assistance to the countries of the Southern Africa region to enable them to repair the damage resulting from the years of destabilisation and conflict. They expressed the hope that South Africa would be integrated into the regional economy in a balanced and equitable manner.

South Africa

16. Heads of Government reviewed developments in South Africa since their last Meeting. They noted that major progress had been made at the multi-party negotiations. Of decisive importance were the agreement on 27 April 1994 as the date for the election to a Constituent Assembly and the passage in September 1993 of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) Bill to facilitate and promote the transition to a democratic order. Heads of Government agreed that those developments marked a point of irreversibility in the transition and brought into sight the ending of apartheid. They warmly welcomed those developments and commended South Africa's leaders for setting the higher national interest above all partisan considerations.

17. They endorsed the decision of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa (CFMSA), announced by the Secretary-General on 24 September 1993, that the Harare conditions for the lifting of trade, investment and financial sanctions had been met. The arms embargo