

the Commons October 28, the Prime Minister characterized the Commonwealth Accord as the articulation of a unanimous Commonwealth will to see apartheid dismantled — coupled with a collective demand for “specific and meaningful action” on the part of South Africa. Having achieved the objective of an “organized common action” in the agreement, Canada would await South Africa’s reaction and, should this prove negative, would be prepared to inaugurate “increasing sanctions” either within or without the Commonwealth.

This same warning was repeated before the UN by Canadian ambassador Stephen Lewis October 31, when he stated that opponents of apartheid were in a “race with

time,” if violent conflict was to be averted in South Africa. The “immorality” of South African racism invited the “opprobrium” of all nations, and Canada would move toward total sanctions and the severance of diplomatic relations should South Africa fail to initiate concrete measures toward the dismantling of apartheid. Within a six-month time frame, Canada endorsed the use of “every initiative, every opportunity, every diplomatic skill, every debate, every forum, within the United Nations, beyond the United Nations, individually and collectively to persuade South Africa that peaceful change alone makes sense” (UN Canadian delegation communiqué, October 31).

# Multilateral Relations

## Central America

### Contadora Initiative

Canada issued a statement of support for the Contadora peace initiative in Central America before the UN General Assembly in late November. The statement, delivered by Shirley Martin (PC, Lincoln), called for continued international efforts to secure the “development, acceptance and implementation of a workable, durable and comprehensive peace agreement” for the region (see “International Canada” for June and July 1985). Rejecting a “cosmetic solution” as “counterproductive and potentially dangerous,” Canada expressed its belief that only by addressing the underlying problems of social and economic injustice might a long-term solution be found. However, it was acknowledged that “external interference” and the tendency to view the situation in an East-West context had “exacerbated and aggravated” the problem of finding such a solution. Canada, placing great emphasis on respect for human dignity and basic human rights, called for increased dialogue, both among parties to the regional conflict, and between Central America and the United States. As well, Canada “deplored” recent increases in the level of militarization. From the Canadian humanitarian perspective, Contadora offered the only framework for a workable peace agreement, but beyond support for Contadora, Canada would continue to focus its efforts on bilateral development assistance (UN Canadian delegation communiqué, November 25).

## The Commonwealth

### Nassau Conference

Upon his return from the Commonwealth Conference, held in Nassau October 16-22, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made a statement to the Commons October 28 outlining Canadian involvement. Of prime importance for the Commonwealth nations was the problem of South Africa and apartheid, and Mr. Mulroney spoke of the compromise measure, the Commonwealth Accord, which met with unanimous endorsement (see this issue — South Africa). While the focus was on those joint economic sanctions designed to place increased pressure on South Africa to dismantle the racist policy of apartheid, attention was also given to other considerations of multilateral interest. The international economic situation, as it affected the Commonwealth, was discussed, with Canada offering a contribution to the Commonwealth fund for technical cooperation of \$50 million over three years. Mention was also made of Canada’s recent efforts to secure “preferential lending conditions” for the smaller Commonwealth Caribbean countries from the World Bank/International Monetary Fund.

The Prime Minister held meetings with Caribbean leaders, and announced that Canada would be responding to requests for a “special degree of understanding” on trade matters in the hemisphere with “practical and concrete measures.” Among these were a one-way duty-free trade arrangement (accounting for 99 percent of Carib-