

The National Peace Accord, signed in September 1991, was meant to address the violence that has bedeviled constitutional talks in South Africa. The first multiparty negotiations, known as the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), were held in December 1991. A second plenary session was held in May 1992, at which time it was hoped that agreement would be reached on transitional measures. The meeting ended, however, without resolving the many outstanding issues about the content of the new constitution for South Africa and the best means to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy. Following the breakdown of CODESA and a marked increase in political violence, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 772 in August 1992. The resolution called for UN and other international observers to be sent to South Africa in support of the September 1991 National Peace Accord. International observers from the UN, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Community and the Commonwealth have been in South Africa since September 1992.

A second round of all-party talks, known as the "Multiparty Negotiating Forum," began in April 1993, following a series of bilateral talks among the major parties. A total of 26 parties, groups and governments are taking part in these negotiations with only a few groups refusing to participate, most notably the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO). It is expected that agreement will be reached during the month of June 1993 on the structure of transitional mechanisms to ensure governmental continuity during the lead-up period to elections and on a date for elections to a constituent assembly which will become South Africa's Parliament for an interim period of between one and five years.

#### Where Canada Stands

The dismantling of apartheid and the introduction of a united, multiracial, fully democratic government in South Africa has long been a major objective of Canadian foreign policy. To achieve this goal, Canada has worked through the Commonwealth, the UN and elsewhere, to pressure the South African government to enter into dialogue with black leaders.

Canada has used many means to exert pressure including economic and financial sanctions, support for the oppressed majority in South Africa and measures to strengthen the independence of South Africa's neighbours. These measures have been important instruments in driving home to the South African government the costs, both human and economic, of the apartheid system.

Canada fully supports the recommendations of the New Delhi CFMSA, and looks forward to a shift of focus in Canadian policy toward the challenges and needs of a post-apartheid South Africa.