

SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

MR. CHAIRMAN,

SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE RACISM HAS BEEN THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONING OF AN ENTIRE SOCIETY, IS TODAY ON THE VERGE OF MOMENTOUS SOCIETAL CHANGE.

THE HISTORIC SEPTEMBER 1993 MULTIPARTY AGREEMENT ON TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GOVERNING OF SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO NEXT YEAR'S NON-RACIAL ELECTIONS IS A TRIBUTE TO THE DETERMINATION OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS OPPOSED TO RACISM. AFTER ALMOST THREE YEARS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS, THE UP-COMING ELECTIONS WILL PUT AN END TO INSTITUTIONALIZED APARTHEID AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR A NEW NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA.

THE MULTIPARTY AGREEMENT CONTINUES TO BE MARRED, HOWEVER, BY ENDEMIC POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA. CANADA ONCE AGAIN CALLS UPON ALL PARTIES TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO BRING AN END TO THIS VIOLENCE. THE END TO RACISM AND RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES GO HAND IN HAND, AND ALL SOUTH AFRICAN PARTIES MUST ENDEAVOUR TO ENCOURAGE THE CLIMATE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TOLERANCE THAT IS REQUIRED TO COMBAT THE LEGACY OF APARTHEID.

SOUTH AFRICA MUST NOW BEGIN TO DEAL WITH THIS LEGACY, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST HELP SOUTH AFRICANS IN THIS EFFORT. CANADA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ARE RESPONDING FAVOURABLY TO REQUESTS TO SEND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS TO SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE APRIL 1994 ELECTIONS. CANADA WILL CONTINUE ITS LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND WE WILL WORK IN THE COMING MONTHS TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS PROVIDE A FREE AND FAIR OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS TO EXPOSE THEIR VIEWS. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE COMMONWEALTH HAS RENEWED ITS OBSERVER MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT CANADA IS PARTICIPATING IN THIS OBSERVER MISSION WHICH IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL GROUPS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD STRUCTURES.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

SITUATION IN NICARAGUA

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY MUST NOT REDUCE ITS RESOLVE TO COMBAT A TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE PHENOMENON: ETHNIC CLEANSING.