

debate about development. What struck me at Lusaka was that countries which disagreed at long distance worked together in the Commonwealth - and worked, quite literally, to change the world. That was when agreement was found on Zimbabwe - and where a network of smaller agreements drew different societies together. I could mention for example, the Management for Change Programme and the Industrial Development Unit.

In the nature of things, Progressive Conservative Governments do not have a wealth of international experience. Perhaps that lets us take more seriously the things we have learned. We came to office, in 1984, believing that the Commonwealth was more than a curiosity shop of odd traditions and former colonies. We regard it as a modern coalition, with deep political real roots, a coalition that should be put to work.

The desperate raids by South Africa, on its Commonwealth neighbours, cast a long shadow over the work of the Eminent Persons Group. But they should not obscure the fact that this unlikely aggregation - a Yoruba Chief, an Anglican archbishop, a former Tory Chancellor, had become recognized the world around as the most likely instrument to bring profound change to South Africa. It is often noted that the Eminent Persons Group was born in compromise. So are most things that work. What is less noted is that it emerged in goodwill, after genuine discussion among countries which deeply disagreed about the best response to apartheid.

Strong views on apartheid are a dime a dozen. You find them in Pretoria; you find them in Ottawa. What is much more rare is an instrument which offers some tangible prospect of leading to change. In the case of Zimbabwe, the Commonwealth proved itself unique in that capacity. It was achieving some success in South Africa - too much success for Pretoria's comfort. Whatever the next steps against apartheid, the Commonwealth is clearly established as an institution that works - one in which Canada has unusual influence, if we choose to use it.

The Economic Summit has come into its own over the past decade. I can't emphasize strongly enough the significance of this institution, the key symbol of the unity of the industrial democracies and a vital stimulus to policy consultation and concertation by those nations. The Summit has played an important role in macroeconomic coordination, in energy policy, and in holding the line against protectionism during the dark days of the recession. The significance of the Summit has extended well beyond economics to a wide range of political issues, where common approaches have been achieved with impressive frequency.