

The Committee commissioned a number of important studies related to our mandate. One, an independent study on South Africa's destabilization of its neighbours is a chronicle of deliberate destruction, death and dislocation. You have it before you as "A Candle on Kilimanjaro". The cost to South Africa's neighbours of deliberate destabilization has been staggering in terms of loss of life, human suffering and damage to the economy, the infrastructure, and the society as a whole.

The Committee's study of South Africa's links to the international financial community has highlighted the importance of financial measures as a means of exerting direct and critical pressure on the South African Government's ability to continue to finance apartheid. The South African Government reacted to that report last night and did so on terms that are very costly to their economy. In my judgment it is no coincidence that this announcement occurred on the day this CHOGM began.

A third study, an independent assessment of the application and effectiveness of sanctions, demonstrated that sanctions work, that they have an effect on the attitudes of white South Africans and on the policies of their government. It set forward further actions the Commonwealth can consider.

We have been interested in means to encourage genuine dialogue among South Africans, which I believe is now more possible and more necessary than ever. We have also borne in mind the fundamental importance of the "possible negotiating concept" established by the Eminent Persons Group.

Finally, the Committee had as one of its tasks the pursuit of implementation of Security Council Resolution 435: the question of Namibia. That occupied an increasing amount of our attention as developments in Namibia unfolded. The Committee's role was, first and foremost, to assist the United Nations through the Secretary-General, his Special Representative, and UNTAG in its responsibility to bring about the long overdue independence of Namibia through the implementation of Resolution 435.

We have monitored events in Namibia closely and offered assistance whenever it seemed that the Committee or the Commonwealth at large could make a contribution. Our concern over intimidation by Koevoet led us to have Secretary-General Ramphal encourage Commonwealth countries to supply additional police forces to UNTAG if requested by the UN Secretary-General. Similarly, because we saw serious problems in the proposed electoral law we provided the UN Special Representative with a number of suggestions, reflected in the electoral law finally negotiated, to ensure the integrity of the secret ballot and decentralized counting.