

Last month, black South Africans mourned the loss of Mr. Steven Biko, a prominent leader of the black consciousness movement. He was widely respected as a man who had the potential for engaging effectively in the meaningful inter-racial dialogue which is essential to a peaceful evolution of South African society. He died in unexplained and increasingly suspicious circumstances while in detention, the twentieth such death in South African prisons in the past eighteen months. His death, the most recent of this deplorable series of fatalities, has precipitated a renewed international outcry against the cruelty of apartheid and of the South African judicial system. Many white South Africans have as well demanded that their government investigate and explain the circumstances of this and similar deaths.

Immediately following Mr. Biko's death, the Canadian Embassy in Pretoria sent a message of condolence and sympathy to the Black People's Convention of South Africa for which Mr. Biko served as Honourary President and to the family at Mr. Biko's funeral as a demonstration of the concern of the Canadian people. In addition, the South African Government was advised of Canadian concerns. Indeed, Canadian individuals and groups are continuing even now to make known their distress at the death of Mr. Biko and at the plight of other South African political prisoners.

I have spoken in particular about Mr. Biko, as a most recent example in a long and distressing chain of abuse and repression. The insistence of the Government of South Africa on repressing legitimate political activity among the South African majority will lead to increased frustration and violence, and eventually to a breakdown of relations among the races in South Africa. We urge the South African Government to recognize that fact and to make action now to renounce all further violence, and to accord an unconditional release to all political prisoners and detainees as a means of establishing a climate in which a peaceful evolution of South African society can begin.

### 3. South African Arms Embargo

As a member of the Security Council in 1977, Canada took part in the historic decision (Security Council resolution 418 of November 4, 1977) to implement a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. It was the first time an action of this kind had been taken against a member state of the United Nations. In voting for the mandatory arms embargo, Canada was confirming a policy to which it has voluntarily adhered since 1963.

Mr. William H. Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada, commented on this matter in the Security Council on several occasions. The following statement was given by Mr. Barton, November 21 after the vote on the establishment of a committee to examine the implementation of the arms embargo against South Africa:

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