

The fight against apartheid is not a quixotic exercise in moral diplomacy. It reflects a sober analysis of the economic potential of the southern African region, a potential which has been sadly stunted by apartheid. Some observers point to South Africa as a model of Western economic success in a desert of inefficiency and underdevelopment. While no one would deny the degree of development currently enjoyed by South Africa, we also cannot ignore the fact that the enormous economic costs of apartheid have prevented that country and the region from reaching anywhere near their full capacity. The dual social system of apartheid - apart from being abhorrent - is extremely costly. So too is the massive security apparatus which the regime must support in order to preserve the status quo.

There are rich mineral reserves and other natural resources in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Angola. These economies are functioning far below capacity. This is partly as a result of the structural weaknesses of the South African economy to which they are so tied, but also because of the foregone benefits of foreign investment. Foreign corporations are not going to rush to invest in societies which are unstable as a result of South African support for rebel movements. Nor are they going to be inclined to invest heavily in economies whose transportation systems are subject to regular interruption by South African-inspired terrorism. I dare say Canada would be far less prosperous place if our rail, air and road networks were subject to periodic and systematic sabotage. So would the United States.

Canada is investing millions of dollars in the development of secure lines of supply for the states to the North of South Africa, lines of supply which connect these economies directly to ocean ports on the African coast. Other countries are doing the same, especially the UK, which has put \$60.millions into rail lines in Mozambique.

The bottom-line here is as follows: A southern Africa plagued by apartheid is a southern Africa which is economically crippled. A southern Africa freed of apartheid would be a southern Africa open to business. Indeed, the transition away from apartheid could trigger the long-sought economic development of the entire, impoverished African continent. This possibility is even more compelling when one looks at the welcome shift already evident in the region towards a market economy, for example in Mozambique.