

The impression I took away from two days of meetings is of a man who is strong, serene, wise and generous. He is a person of principle, but also of practicality and flexibility. To emerge from prison after so long a punishment and to retain an understanding of the concerns of his jailers is extraordinary. Mr. Mandela disproves the notion that history is made only by impersonal forces. The course of South African history will be determined in large measure by this man - and by his counterpart in Pretoria.

Canada will maintain sanctions until there is clear evidence of irreversible change in the apartheid system. But we intend also to encourage President de Klerk in his courageous and moderate course. Foreign Minister Pik Botha has written to me suggesting that Canadian experience might be particularly helpful in developing negotiated solutions for South Africa. I have responded by proposing that Mr. Ted Lee, the Head of our Legal Branch, and Canada's former Ambassador to South Africa, visit the region to assess areas where Canada's expertise might be of use. I made it clear to Mr. Botha that any expertise we might offer must be available to all parties in the negotiations. Mr. Lee will be in South Africa in early April to consult with the government, the ANC and other relevant parties.

The nature of the South African challenge has changed. The opponents of apartheid outside South Africa must be as sensitive and generous in encouraging the process of change as Nelson Mandela has been in leading it. Canadian non-governmental organizations have brought great honour to Canada in their fight against apartheid. I will be meeting with them within the next two weeks to discuss how Canadians together can best pursue the fresh prospect of finally ending apartheid.

After my meetings in Lusaka, I paid a brief visit to Namibia, which will celebrate its hard-won independence on March 21st. Canada will be represented at the independence celebrations by my colleague, the Minister of External Relations and International Development and by a small all-party delegation from Parliament. For years, Namibian independence was a hostage to apartheid; now Namibia is leading the way for its neighbour, South Africa. It is a remarkable example of a successful transition to a non-racial democracy, the holding of free elections, the drafting of a constitution without peer in Africa. The Namibian success points to what is possible when reason overcomes emotion and compromise replaces prejudice.

During my conversations with President-elect Sam Nujoma and his Ministers-designate, I expressed both Canada's congratulations and our intent to continue to contribute to the development of a stable and prosperous Namibia.

Mr. Speaker, when I was called to the platform to welcome Nelson Mandela to Zambia, President Kaunda said that Canada, though far away, had earned the right to be considered a "Front Line State" in the battle to end apartheid. Because we are a Western democracy, a diverse society, a successful economy, our role may be even more important in this sensitive new phase of the campaign to establish a non-racial democracy in South Africa.