

And we had a choice to make in South Africa about the means we would use to seek to bring an end to apartheid. We have imposed economic sanctions - stopping global export insurance; stopping PEMD grants, ending our double taxation treaty. But we have also recognized that our membership and our standing in the Commonwealth give Canada a particular card to play. Of all the institutions in the world, the Commonwealth has more potential influence in South Africa than virtually any other, and Canada, for our part, has more real influence in the Commonwealth than in many other agencies. Here then is a major challenge of Canadian foreign policy - to identify what our particular strengths are, and to use those strengths to best effect.

We are a product of our particular traditions and geography and values. Those combine in Canada as they do nowhere else, and create a nation that is both distinct and strong. For too long we have questioned our own identity, doubted our own strengths. If there are growing challenges abroad, there is growing confidence at home, and our duty is to make the most of both.