

efforts to work against apartheid. Because of threats to major development projects in the Front Line States we intend to provide assistance, in concert with others, to preserve these development initiatives.

The movement in favour of human dignity is now irreversible. There can be no doubt that fundamental change will come to South Africa. The only questions are when and how and at what cost in human life.

We must make sure the answers are soon, and peacefully -- and that a framework is preserved that will give rise to a non-racial democratic South Africa. Only then will the children of Mandela know the gifts that freedom brings.

The problems of the Middle East have preoccupied this Assembly since the creation of the United Nations. Peaceful solutions have proved elusive, and in their absence, violence and extremism have increased. But that is an argument for redoubled effort, not for despair.

There is today growing support for a properly structured international conference based on Israel's right to exist and recognition of the rights of Palestinians. Canada believes that such a conference can provide a path toward dialogue and away from a situation that appears to promise little but further suffering.

Mr. President, some regional disputes continue to challenge our courage and imagination. But in just a short period of time, progress towards a more peaceful world has been dramatic and deeply encouraging.

Who would have predicted a year ago that today Soviet forces would be withdrawing from Afghanistan; that Vietnamese forces would begin withdrawing from Cambodia; that U.N. peacekeepers would be patrolling the Iran-Iraq border; that negotiations on Angola and on the Western Sahara would be starting to bear fruit; that the Secretary-General would be discussing the independence of Namibia with the South African government.

Those who have doubted both the value of multilateralism and the U.N. surely must be re-assessing their views today. The Secretary-General's recent report on the work of this Organization is a document which should inspire the deliberations of this Assembly.

In this dawning hope for peace, the path we should take is clear. It is towards conciliation and not