

opposition, but with the strong conviction and the certain knowledge that it was right.

Mr. Diefenbaker's action marked the beginning of international pressure on the apartheid regime, pressure that was then sustained and intensified in Canada by the governments of Prime Ministers Pearson, Trudeau, Clark and Turner. And this, to the great individual personal credit of these leaders.

If I may be allowed a strictly Canadian note: outside South Africa itself there are few international leaders, in my judgment, who have made a more sustained and a more effective commitment to fundamental and beneficial change in that country in recent years than the present Secretary of State for External Affairs of the Government of Canada, the Right Honourable Joe Clark.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mulroney: Almost a quarter of a century after Mr. Diefenbaker's stand, I had the privilege, along with Mr. Clark, to take Canada's seats at the 1985 Nassau Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and at the follow-up meeting in London in 1987.

Again, the Commonwealth was determined to provide moral and practical leadership to the international community's campaign against apartheid. We launched an Eminent Persons Group, which included Archbishop Ted Scott of Canada, to determine whether Pretoria was serious about fundamental change. When the Group's comprehensive and thoughtful proposals were capriciously rebuffed by the Government of South Africa, all Commonwealth countries, except one, agreed to a common package of economic and other sanctions.

This action was later followed by the European Community, the United States of America and others and the screws on Pretoria were tightened as never before. That policy was reconfirmed and reinforced in subsequent Commonwealth meetings in Vancouver and Kuala Lumpur and Foreign Ministers' meetings under Mr. Clark's chairmanship in Lusaka, Toronto, Harare, Canberra and Abidjan.

[*English*]

The political changes those sanctions were designed to bring about have started to happen. Determined internal resistance, supported by international pressure, convinced the white community of the need for negotiations toward a new and democratic South Africa.

These are promising times in South Africa. The African National Congress and other political organizations are no longer banned. Less than two weeks ago President de Klerk terminated the four year old state of emergency everywhere in South Africa, except Natal. The Separate Amenities Act is slated for repeal in October. And a victory for all South Africans was achieved when your meeting early last month with President de Klerk produced a mutual commitment to a peaceful process of negotiations.

Mr. Mandela, I believe the world is remarkably fortunate to have a person of your rare qualities at the helm of the movement for equality in South Africa at this particularly crucial time in your country's history. To emerge from prison after so long an incarceration and to retain an understanding of the concerns of your jailers is truly extraordinary. To resume your life and your leadership with neither bitterness nor malice is a powerful compliment to the strength of your character and to the soundness of your values.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Likewise, I think it is pretty clear that President de Klerk has demonstrated both leadership and courage by recognizing the need to come to grips with the crucial issue of the equality of all people before the law.

[*Translation*]

In reflecting on the momentous changes of recent months, however, it is important at the same time to recognize the realities on the ground and the challenges ahead.

Apartheid in all its repugnance is still the law of South Africa. And violence from different quarters—white and black—threatens the movement towards a peaceful settlement.

No one should underestimate the difficulties ahead. The time will no doubt come, sooner rather than later, we hope, when clear and hopefully irreversible change has occurred and it will be appropriate to ease some of the pressure that has helped bring it about.

[*English*]

But at this crucial juncture, the Government of Canada, and I believe all members of the House of Commons, believe that the way to advance the process of democracy in South Africa is to maintain the existing economic sanctions which have contributed substantially to the advancement toward social justice in South Africa thus far.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!