

Ironically, the drought that is gripping all of that region of the continent now and exacting such a heavy toll on livestock and on human beings, has proved a catalyst in promoting that new spirit of co-operation among the countries and governments of the region.

Canada, with other donors, has responded to the very urgent and tragic needs of this drought, and we will be providing \$30 million worth of food aid to Southern Africa. Much of that food will have to go through South African ports on its way to Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi. Of course there will be aid to Mozambique.

For the first time in decades, ministers and senior officials from the other Southern African countries are sitting down with their South African counterparts to discuss common approaches to this common and very tragic problem. We are, of course, applauding the collaboration in this effort and wish it well. We are prepared to aid in any way that we can.

The victory over apartheid is a victory for the human spirit for right over wrong. But no victory is easy, nor can it be cause for gloating or premature celebration. The challenges of a new South Africa will be as great as the challenges to the old South Africa. The stakes are very high.

Canada played a significant role in undermining the pillars of apartheid, an abhorrent system that we have been strongly opposed and consistently opposed to. We must continue our efforts and continue to be diligent. While I was there, I assured the South Africans that I met from all walks of life that Canada has been there for them in the past. We will be there with them, both bilaterally and multilaterally, not just as an instrument of government policy, but because of the sympathy and interest and caring that individual Canadians feel for the people of South Africa.

As they themselves are creating this new country, their own new country and their own new constitution, I make those assurances to this House -- that Canada will continue to be there for South Africa.