

Despite these international efforts, it is only recently that there has been evidence to suggest that Mr. Smith has accepted at long last the concept of negotiation aimed at transition to majority rule on the basis of one-man-one-vote. Canada has always maintained, even in the face of deeply frustrating intransigence, that any negotiated settlement must take into account all relevant factors. We believe that all the people of Zimbabwe must be allowed to join freely in the process of negotiating a settlement which will preserve their right to self-determination and independence. As the Canadian delegate to the Maputo Conference commented:

To bring about an enduring settlement, negotiations must also take account of all nationalist elements which are building up political and military pressure, whether from within or from without. No so-called internal solution will be acceptable, neither would it endure; nor is a purely external solution likely to garner sufficient support among the Zimbabwean majority. Our objectives, we believe, should be to encourage the elaboration of a framework within which the independent Zimbabwe Government will be chosen by all Zimbabweans.

The initiative launched last spring by the United Kingdom - with the active support of the USA - in our view contained the necessary elements for a negotiated and internationally acceptable settlement. The Canadian Government therefore supported this initiative because, for the first time in over ten years of searching for a peaceful settlement, all parties concerned were able to accept a single document as a basis for further negotiation. The talks undertaken by Field Marshall Carver and the Special Representative of the Secretary General, General Prem Chand, dealt with some of the hard issues which will need to be resolved for any settlement to endure, and we regret that it was not possible to enlarge the areas of agreement. It is difficult to see how the internal settlement that has now been proposed by Mr. Smith as an alternative can lead to the peaceful and stable Zimbabwe that is our common goal. Clearly, a settlement that is acceptable to the international community -- and ultimately to the Security Council -- can only be achieved through a negotiating process that involves all the parties concerned.

In the current situation, it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that international pressure is maintained. Canada has, of course, not been part of the negotiating process in Zimbabwe. We are, nevertheless, prepared to do whatever we can to encourage those directly involved in their efforts and to assist in minimizing disruptions in the delicate transitional period. Canada would consider very carefully requests for a Canadian contribution to United Nations involvement in a settlement, and we have, for instance, accepted in principle the concept of a Zimbabwe Development Fund. We shall, in the same spirit, continue to contribute substantially to UN, Commonwealth and non-governmental programmes which provide educational training and other humanitarian assistance to the Zimbabwean African people in preparation for their future roles in an independent Zimbabwe.

In concluding, I should like to reiterate the need for flexibility and a willingness to compromise on the part of all parties concerned. For the sake of all the people of Zimbabwe, we hope that such a spirit will prevail in the coming months, which will be crucial to the future of Zimbabwe.