

facing all of South Africa's international friends as well. I would emphasize to our South African colleagues here tonight, that Canadians -- our business community, academics, non-governmental organizations and professional bodies -- and all levels of government are ready to discuss the same commitment to building the new South Africa as we have to dismantle apartheid.

Township activists have told us that some foreign governments have been so dazzled by the promises from Pretoria that they are blind to the fact that very little has changed at the grass roots. For blacks in the townships, let alone in rural communities, apartheid is still alive and well. They are still pushed around by the security forces and by an indifferent or antagonistic white bureaucracy. They are still denied access to hospitals and schools, awarded inferior pensions, intimidated when they try to use the legally integrated community facilities. And now they fear that the international community is beginning to forget them.

The measures that the South African government has taken have certainly brought it a long way down the road to international respectability. Within months, we could see the fulfilment of all the conditions set out in the Possible Negotiating Concept of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group and reaffirmed in the Pretoria Minute. Here in Canada, both the Prime Minister and I have applauded the political leadership and courage shown by President de Klerk in making these pronouncements and we will continue to applaud each move he takes towards the dismantling of apartheid.

The February meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers which I chaired was unanimous in agreeing that the undertakings to abolish legislative apartheid represented substantial progress. But we also noted that the prerequisite for progress in South Africa has always been the acceptance of the need for serious and meaningful negotiations. Unfortunately important obstacles blocking the launch of formal negotiations, notably the release of political prisoners, return of exiles and the revision of security legislation, remain in place. We concluded that we must maintain international pressure, including sanctions, until there is actual change and not just promised change. The Committee therefore proposed a "programmed management approach" to Commonwealth sanctions that would recognize the key milestones in political change in South Africa. In this way, changes in the application of sanctions will be linked not to statements of intent, but to the adoption of real and practical steps in the dismantling of apartheid.

I believe the London meeting represented an important step in the evolution of Commonwealth policy towards South Africa. The concept of the programmed management approach ensures that sanctions retain their relevance and role in