

support for the families of detainees and political prisoners. We have supported the creation of independent trade unions within South Africa. Hundreds of community development projects have benefited from our aid and advice over the years. We are active in assisting non-racial sport. We have encouraged inter-racial dialogue and provided expert advice on constitutional issues. In a far-sighted initiative, Canada's John Harker and his colleagues in the Commonwealth Expert Group on Human Resource Development in a Post-Apartheid South Africa have prepared a thoughtful report on South Africa's education and training needs which deserves careful examination by Heads of Government in Harare.

A new challenge now faces the international community: to facilitate the return of political exiles to South Africa. I am proud to announce that Canada will be providing \$1.5 million to the UNHCR to help defray the costs for the return of South African exiles. The needs are changing, but our commitment to supporting the development needs of the victims of apartheid continues.

There have been important, and positive, political changes in South Africa. But for blacks in the townships, let alone in rural communities, apartheid is still alive and well. They are still denied access to hospitals and schools, awarded inferior pensions, intimidated when they try to use the legally integrated community facilities. They continue to fear and mistrust the state security forces. South Africa remains a violence-ridden society. The vast majority are still denied the vote. These issues will all have to be addressed in negotiations. But the scars of 40 years of apartheid could well take decades to heal.

Nonetheless, for the first time in decades there is good reason to hope for a peaceful transition to democratic rule in South Africa. The people have demonstrated a remarkable goodwill, and a strong commitment to reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflict. The country is blessed with leaders of vision, whose courage and imagination will be tested in the period ahead. Flexibility and patience will be required on all sides. We and our Commonwealth partners must be prepared to do all we can, to help the people pass over the abyss of violence and chaos and build the firm foundations of their freedom and prosperity in a new South Africa.

South Africa is a country of extraordinary potential, a country that can contribute immensely to Africa and the world. South Africans need have no fear that they will be forgotten or ignored by the international community in the years to come. It was Canada's Prime Minister John Diefenbaker who said, at the Heads of Government meeting 30 years ago, that the Commonwealth would always have a lamp in the window for South Africa. As the long night of apartheid ends, that light blends with the dawn of a new day when we may finally hope to welcome South Africa back into our family of nations.