

This Committee was established with the following principal goals:

- to keep the South Africa issue on the public agenda;
- to give high level impetus to the objectives of the Okanagan declaration; and
- to provide guidance in the fight against apartheid.

The mandate of the Committee covered four areas:

- sanctions;
- the relationship between South Africa and its neighbours;
- a range of activities related to what might be termed "reaching into South Africa"; and
- Namibia.

It was a mandate which reflected the two-track approach towards southern Africa that was agreed to in Vancouver. One track reflected a desire to promote a positive agenda in terms of encouraging dialogue, facilitating negotiations and assisting both the victims of and opponents to apartheid. The second was to maintain pressure on South Africa to reform through the widening and intensifying of sanctions.

The Committee met formally on four occasions: in Lusaka in February of 1988; in Toronto in August of that year; in Harare last January and, most recently, in Canberra in August. One of the most important aspects of those meetings is that they allowed us to meet directly with, and hear directly from, South Africans engaged on the front lines of the fight against apartheid - whether union representatives, church leaders, journalists, officials of the ANC and PAC, or others. I wish all of you could have been present that first night in Lusaka when Frank Chikane and Byers Naude spoke of the fears and the hopes they meet in their daily rounds within South Africa. That exposure to the witnesses of apartheid is compelling.

A number of those persons invited from South Africa to meet with us were prevented by the South African Government from doing so. However, those witnesses with whom we did meet spoke to us eloquently, passionately and graphically of South African oppression within its own borders and of its destabilization activities against its neighbours.