

The fundamental change that is overdue in South Africa will occur not so much as a result of any comment or action on our part, but in direct response to the pressures for change which exist within South African society. The role of the international community towards change will be subsidiary to that of the people of South Africa. We can and shall continue to give them our moral support. We can and shall continue to provide increasingly for their humanitarian needs and to assist them with the education and training opportunities now denied them. We shall, furthermore, continue to evaluate possibilities for international pressures which will give support to those of whatever racial origin in South Africa who seek to bring about change in that society. That change will occur is inevitable. The only question that remains is how and when it will be accomplished - whether through peaceful means at the initiative of all groups in South Africa working together to define a new system, or whether by the further violence which will result if the aspirations of the majority are met with continued intransigence and repression.

2. "Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners"

The Canadian Government has on many occasions made known its concern about the continuing suppression of dissent against apartheid inside South Africa and the detention and mistreatment of political prisoners. Canada believes that non-violent dissent against the racist and unjust policies of apartheid constitutes legitimate political activity, and that South Africa must be made to recognize this fact, for with political rights denied to the majority, the internal situation is becoming more and more volatile.

When the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid met at UNGA XXXII to observe the "Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners", Mr. William C.Y. McGregor, Canadian delegate in the Third Committee, delivered a statement indicating Canada's profound disagreement with South African policies towards political dissent:

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We have come together on this occasion to demonstrate our concern for the men, women and children of South Africa of all races who have laid down their lives or have been subjected to imprisonment, detention, or banning, simply as a result of their struggle to bring about the end of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. From year to year, the situation of individuals in South Africa has deteriorated. Many thousands have been prosecuted as a direct result of their attempts to organize politically to bring about peaceful change in South Africa. The level of bannings, detentions, and criminal prosecutions carried out under the unjust laws which form the framework of the apartheid system has continued to increase. The tragic events of Soweto should have served the South African Government and the minority which elects it as a lesson of the futility of trying to suppress the legitimate aspirations of the South African majority, and of the need to make fundamental adjustments in that society. The lesson does not appear to have been learned.