

Le
Sommet
francophone
Paris, du 17 au 19 février
1986



The
Francophone
Summit
Paris, February 17-19,
1986

SOUTH AFRICA

Context

South Africa's policy of apartheid and the issue of Namibian independence are major items on the international political agenda, and are of special interest to La Francophonie, which is composed largely of African states.

Like the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Nassau, the Francophone Summit will give participating world leaders a useful and timely opportunity to review the situation in Southern Africa. These issues will remain in the forefront of international concerns in the months ahead, because of recent developments in South Africa and the timetable set for future international meetings. These include the UN/OAU world conference on sanctions against South Africa and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia.

Canada's position

Canada is radically opposed to apartheid and feels it is essential to impress upon South Africa the necessity of amending its unjust laws founded on racial segregation. The Canadian government's objective is rapid, peaceful change through dialogue, rather than through destructive violence.

The measures adopted by the government are vigorous and innovative. Its general approach, however, is based on a non-partisan tradition that dates back to 1961. In that year, Prime Minister Diefenbaker played a leading role in the process of depriving South Africa of its membership in the Commonwealth.

Canada has adopted a firm, yet moderate and balanced policy. It is among the leaders of the large industrialized countries engaged in the international campaign against apartheid. Canada is, however, more concerned to adopt an effective position than to take a stand based on mere rhetoric.