

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has played a constructive role in promoting change in South Africa through political activism in the Commonwealth and United Nations, economic pressure and pragmatic assistance. As Chair of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, Canada guided the Commonwealth decision to lift trade, investment and financial sanctions on September 24, in acknowledgement of the significant progress made towards ending apartheid. The oil embargo, a UN sanction, was lifted with the establishment of the TEC.

A number of Ministerial statements throughout the year denounced violence and urged political leaders to increase their efforts to achieve a peaceful transition, the most recent being the address by the Secretary of State for Latin America and Africa to the 48th UN General Assembly on the apartheid issue. Canada also supported efforts to address the on-going violence by providing two senior retired RCMP officers to the Commonwealth Observer Mission, and made strong representations to the United Nations to increase the size of their observer mission.

Canadian assistance with community policing, strengthening of the democratic movement's policy capabilities in key sectors, and provision of voter education and electoral expertise have all contributed to levelling the political playing field and easing the transition period. Canada's Dialogue Fund and CIDA-funded programmes have also contributed to human rights and democratic development through sponsoring projects addressing gender issues, children's rights, judicial training, land policy, administrative training, medical training, youth and administrative law.

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