

In 1986 and the first four months of 1987, ten Canadian companies have stopped operations in South Africa, leaving only five with half ownership or more of their affiliates there.

Don't sanctions hurt blacks too?

Both sanctions and the withdrawal of multinational business from South Africa undoubtedly have some effect on blacks.

But most black leaders — including Archbishop Desmond Tutu — believe that sanctions are necessary despite their effect on the black community, because they are a means to pressure the South African government to make changes and open the door to better times for blacks in future. And without those changes the apartheid system will soon be inflicting enormous suffering on the millions of its non-white victims.

Are sanctions helping to bring change?

While the government of South Africa still holds out against fundamental change, its views are not unanimously shared. Leading businessmen and others are in contact with black leaders, exploring ways they can work together in a multiracial South Africa; some have even taken the bold step of meeting outside the country with the banned African National Congress.

This is a significant development, for the purpose of sanctions is to bring South Africa to its senses, not to its knees.

Will there be more sanctions?

Sanctions are not taken for their own sake. They should be effective in bringing movement. If there is no progress in dismantling apartheid, Canada is prepared to take further steps — right up to cutting off all diplomatic and economic ties with South Africa.

But the embassy would only be closed as a last resort because it would limit Canada's future effectiveness in pressing for change, maintaining contact with South African authorities, and delivering aid programmes to South Africans.

It would also end the Canadian embassy's own program of assistance to the victims of apartheid and leave Canadians who provide

private assistance without the support of Canadian diplomats on the spot in any difficulties they have with South African authorities.

And it would limit the Canadian government's knowledge of conditions in South Africa to what it could glean from news reports that are subject to censorship by the South African government.

Canadian policy has been to build up the pressure, step by step, in cooperation with other countries that also oppose apartheid, until the South African government sees the rest of the world will not relent in its determination to see an end to the present system.

What about assistance to the victims of apartheid?

Canada's help to the victims of apartheid inside South Africa centers on education, humanitarian relief, and community development.

The stress on education looks to the future, when blacks take their rightful place in South Africa.

A \$9 million education fund is helping to put dozens of black South Africans through university. It also supports small-scale initiatives such as teaching farm labourers to read and write and helping adults complete high school.

Other small-scale programs are supported from a \$350,000 fund administered by the Canadian Embassy in South Africa.

Sometimes education and community development reinforce each other, as they do in one embassy-sponsored program which provides materials and equipment to train women in working with textiles and beads as a new source of income for themselves and their families.

Other community development programs sponsored by Canada include roofing-over springs in some rural communities to protect them from pollution, and launching community gardens that let people improve their nutrition at little cost.

In poor communities, such small-scale programs can make a real difference to the quality of life.