

the search for a negotiated settlement proceeded against a background of continuing hostilities between the Government and UNITA forces exacerbated by external interference. The Committee called for cessation of all such interference as neither the MNR nor UNITA could continue their campaigns of destruction without continuing political and material support from South Africa and other countries. The Committee reiterated its appeal to all governments to contribute to meeting the identified security needs of Angola and Mozambique and again requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to encourage increased security assistance for the Front-Line States, particularly Mozambique.

## Sanctions

7. Having reviewed the current situation in South Africa and the region, Ministers noted the indispensable role that international sanctions and other pressures continue to play in bringing about change in South Africa.

8. As Heads of Government had stated at Kuala Lumpur, the purpose of sanctions was not punitive but to abolish apartheid by bringing Pretoria to the negotiating table and keeping it there until fundamental political change was irreversibly secured. There was growing evidence that the white community in South Africa is coming to terms with the reality that the only way to counter the deteriorating economic and social situation was to end the international isolation through political change. Such recognition underlies the steps that Pretoria has recently taken towards the process of negotiations. The Committee was, therefore, of the view that to relax sanctions now would abort the process towards negotiations that had barely commenced. The Committee called on the international financial community, whose withdrawal of credit and investment from South Africa continues to be a powerful source of pressure on Pretoria, not to relent in applying such pressure; and called on all Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries to maintain existing sanctions and measures until Pretoria was brought to the negotiating table and change was clearly and irreversibly secured. Certainly, it would be wrong to withdraw pressure now.

9. In this context, it attached importance to the considered view of Mr. Mandela that the Committee should seek to impress upon governments that if the trend to relax sanctions is not stopped, all the gains in the first steps towards negotiations will be reversed. The Committee underlined the importance of maintaining the existing consensus on international sanctions. Given the importance of the international community acting in concert and not relaxing sanctions prematurely, the Committee agreed to convey its views to non-Commonwealth governments and, in particular, to the members of the EC and G7 groupings of countries.