

I have the honour, on behalf of Canada, to chair that Committee, whose other members include the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India, Guyana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

I have been in touch with my colleagues on the Committee, and with the Commonwealth Secretariat, and am advising Parliament today that the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers will hold our first meeting in southern Africa itself, in Lusaka, Zambia, at the beginning of February. We are using the weeks before that meeting to take up directly some of the initiatives in the Okanagan Statement, and to work with the Commonwealth Secretariat on others.

The Vancouver Conference focused on three major areas - sanctions, aid to the Front Line States, and reaching into South Africa to aid the victims and opponents of apartheid, and generally promote dialogue. The Committee of Foreign Ministers, and the Secretariat, will look into means to widen and intensify the program of economic measures already in place, including an examination of the way sanctions have been frustrated, and studies on the impact of sanctions and on South Africa's financial relations.

The Committee will also give priority to encouraging and assisting the opponents of apartheid within South Africa, and to counteracting the effects of censorship and propaganda. Real progress against apartheid requires genuine dialogue between the South African Government and authentic black leaders. Unfortunately, as I learned for myself during a visit to southern Africa in August, the short term prospects of reaching that goal are not great. But we believe the Commonwealth can contribute to the possibility of internal talks by increasing our contacts with South Africans of different view points.

At Vancouver, Heads of Government were unanimous in their resolve to strengthen the capacity of South Africa's neighbours to resist Pretoria's policy of destabilization and destruction. Mozambique is particularly important to the landlocked of the Front Line States; so the Commonwealth established a special technical assistance fund for Mozambique, and is committed to establishing secure infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of transportation routes, and measures to protect them against attack. Each country will decide how it can best contribute, and Canada has pledged \$20 million to rebuilding the vital Limpopo railway line.