

supports the system. Recently it indicated the intention to severely restrict the freedom of the press. That action, if pursued, would constitute a severe blow to the very limited body of freedoms existing in South Africa and to one valued by all South Africans. We have noted that consideration of the pertinent legislation has been deferred for a year in the expectation that the press will discipline itself. These moves towards control of the press seem to us ominous, as they will jeopardize the possibilities that a free press offers to the South African population for analyzing its situation and seeking solutions to its pressing problems.

It is important to recognize that the key element in the evolution of South African policies in the direction we all want to see is the attitude of the South Africans themselves - and by that I mean the totality of the population. I have no doubt that, over time, the pressures induced by the events in Soweto and Sharpeville, the solidarity demonstrated by white university students for their black and coloured comrades, and the increasing level of active resistance to social and economic abuse will be the decisive element in changing the present policies of the Government.

This, of course, does not relieve us of the responsibility to do everything within our power that we collectively deem appropriate to support the efforts of the people of South Africa to achieve self-determination and to promote the objectives that we have identified and, one hopes, will agree upon in the course of this debate.

A463

Canada, for its part, in 1973 voluntarily placed an embargo on the sale of military equipment to South Africa and in 1970 extended this embargo to the export of spare parts for such equipment in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. Canada is, furthermore, a major contributor to the United Nations and other multilateral non-governmental funds that have been established to provide education, training and humanitarian and development assistance to the African peoples of Southern Africa. We discourage sporting contacts with South Africa by refusing any moral or financial assistance to Canadian individuals and teams that decide to compete in South Africa and to any sporting event held in Canada in which South African teams participate. We support international actions on this subject because sport in South Africa, by law, has been and is still organized on a racial basis, contrary to the Olympic principle.

We also engage in major programs of co-operation with the independent countries of Southern Africa in order to contribute to the development of these countries and to assist in their task of