

its security legislation. It has freed more than a thousand political prisoners, and established a process to act on the applications for release of others. It has reached agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), paving the way for the return of exiles.

Tomorrow the National Peace Accord will be signed by the three parties most involved in negotiating it and several others. We salute the efforts of its church and business sponsors to find a comprehensive package to resolve the intractable political violence, and sincerely hope they will be crowned with success. Next month the Patriotic Front conference will be held to enable the Liberation Movements to find common ground as they prepare for negotiations. And we look forward to a multi-party conference convened well before year's end, to negotiate transitional arrangements as well as principles and procedures for writing a new constitution.

When we last met in February these changes were only partly realized. That meeting, chaired by my predecessor Mr. Clark, sought to find an approach to encourage the South African government to make good on its promises. In London the Committee developed a "programmed management approach," designed to link changes in the application of sanctions not to mere statements of intent, but to the adoption of real and practical steps in the dismantling of apartheid. This historic step in the evolution of Commonwealth policy ensured that sanctions retained their relevance as an incentive to all parties in achieving a non-racial democracy in South Africa through negotiations.

Seven months later, it is apparent that this approach has been successful. It has clearly influenced the thinking of other governments as they developed their own approach to managing sanctions. Our decisions on the implementation of the sports boycott have been adopted by the International Olympic Committee, and have led to South Africa's welcome readmission to international cricket.

Our task here in Delhi is twofold. We need to determine whether sufficient progress has taken place to move ahead on our management of Commonwealth sanctions, and to define our conditions for further movement more clearly. We must also look forward to post-apartheid South Africa, and how the Commonwealth can help it to emerge. Our Heads of Government, when they meet in Harare next month, will look to us for solid recommendations and guidance at this crucial time for South Africa.

The Commonwealth has played a catalytic role in developing an international response to the challenge of apartheid. It has not only been active on the political front; it has played an indispensable role on the development front. Commonwealth countries have long been active in the education and training of South African exiles. We have provided legal assistance and