

A week ago today, I had the distinct privilege, on behalf of Canada, to meet with Mr. Nelson Mandela on his first voyage outside South Africa since he was confined to prison 27 years ago. I want to report to Parliament on our conversations, and also on my brief visit to Namibia, in whose struggle for independence Canada has played so vital a role.

Lusaka, Zambia is the headquarters of the African National Congress in exile. Mr. Mandela came to consult with his National Executive, some of whom he had never met. He wanted also to meet those countries and institutions which have played a leading role in the struggle against apartheid. The Prime Minister, whom I represented, was one of the first invited to Lusaka, which is a sign of the respect that Canada has won among the people on the front lines of the fight against apartheid. That is a tribute to the resolve of people throughout this House and across the country. It creates a responsibility for Canadians to continue our leadership in new circumstances which, while more promising than the decades of impasse on apartheid, are also more challenging and complex.

The House knows the changes which have swept South Africa in recent months:

- the historic Harare Declaration of the African National Congress which accepted the desirability of peaceful, negotiated change in South Africa;
- the election as President of South Africa of F.W. De Klerk, a man who seems committed to initiating real change;
- the unbanning of the African National Congress;
- and the triumphant release of Nelson Mandela from prison on February 11.

The stage is now set for historic progress towards a truly democratic and non-racial South Africa. But we have only just begun. The state of emergency is still in force. Political prisoners remain detained. The pillars of apartheid remain. As Kenneth Kaunda said in Lusaka, Mr. Mandela is now free, but he is free only to live in an apartheid system.

I think it important that Canadians understand the spirit in which Nelson Mandela approaches this phase of events in South Africa. He referred to his meetings with President de Klerk, and the Ministers of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and said he is convinced that they are true Reformers who seek a new social contract in South Africa. But, he noted, these are but three men who face the same Party structure responsible for the development and maintenance of the repressive regime of apartheid. They deserve to be encouraged, but neither he nor the world could ignore the history of the National Party or the forces of retrenchment which lie in waiting. Mr. Mandela believes that pressures must be maintained until real change occurs. Expressions of intent are not enough to warrant relaxation of pressure.

Mr. Mandela was unambiguous on this issue: the greatest assistance which could be offered by the outside world to the ANC is to maintain sanctions. Indeed, he spoke of intensifying sanctions, and I have asked him to indicate where and how this should occur.