

Mr. President, many nations, including Canada, stand ready to assist South Africa with its transition to a non-racial democratic state. This evolution, which must inevitably take place, will require all of the internal good will, and all of the external assistance that the international community can muster.

Canada believes that assistance to the victims of apartheid today contributes to a democratic and just South Africa tomorrow. Through support for education and other forms of training, we not only contribute to the current process of change but also help the development of skills required in a post-apartheid society. Our efforts are aimed at enhancing the pillars of any free society - democratic institutions such as the free press and a fair and accessible legal system. To this end we support diverse groups that fight against censorship and we champion the cause of human rights.

Mr. President, through our ongoing dialogue program, we encourage South Africans of all races to engage in an open, constructive exchange about their hopes and aspirations for a South Africa based on equality, justice and tolerance. This dialogue serves to build the foundation of trust upon which meaningful negotiations can take place, and from which a new South Africa will emerge.

All who would be part of meaningful negotiations towards the creation of a non-racial democratic South Africa have expressed a preference for a negotiated, peaceful settlement. This preference is strongly shared by the international community. We also share the belief that meaningful negotiations cannot take place as long as some of the parties are jailed, banned, or otherwise constrained from consulting with their constituencies.

That is why the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' "Possible Negotiating Concept" called on the South African Government to remove the military from the townships, provide for freedom of assembly and discussion and suspend detention without trial, release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and detainees, unban the ANC and PAC and permit normal political activity. It called on the ANC and others to enter negotiations and suspend violence. That concept remains as valid today as when it was first put forward, and has found resonance in subsequent proposals aimed at creating the necessary climate for negotiations.

In this context, Canada and all of the Commonwealth recently noted with satisfaction the strong preference for the path of negotiated and peaceful settlement inherent in the 1989 Harare Declaration of the Ad-Hoc Committee of the OAU on Southern Africa. The Commonwealth also reaffirmed its belief that the constitutional system was a matter for all the people of South Africa to decide, and that its own role remained essentially to