

Why is Canada involved in the campaign to end apartheid?

By making colour the hallmark of the Southern African political and economic system, apartheid flouts the international moral standards that underpin the search for peace and prosperity in the family of nations.

While many other countries also deny human rights and let a minority grab more than its fair share of wealth and power, South Africa singles itself out as the only place in the world where racism is the cornerstone of government and the economic system.

Canada is one of many nations that match their condemnation of apartheid with action.

In keeping with its policy of constructive internationalism, Canada has accepted the challenge of leadership against apartheid, acting as a bridge between developing nations and the industrial world.

In the Commonwealth, among the Francophone nations, at the Economic Summit of the big seven industrial nations, and elsewhere, Canada has kept up the pressure for fundamental change in South Africa.

What will happen in South Africa when apartheid ends?

The goal set by black leaders — and shared by Canada — is equality for all of its people, whether they are white, black or members of the smaller minorities of people of mixed race or of Asian ancestry who now have a few more rights than blacks in South Africa.

Some white South Africans claim that an end to the present system will mean Marxist rule, violence and mismanagement. In fact, the real danger is that the longer legitimate opposition to apartheid is suppressed, the more attractive radical solutions will become in the black community.

Today no one ideology has a monopoly on the thinking of the black leadership; many approaches would be represented in genuine dialogue between black and white representatives to chart a transition from apartheid to equality.

Canada and other countries are helping a wide cross section of black South Africans get the education that will let them take

leadership positions in their country in the future.

The real fear of many white South Africans is that they will lose the economic and political advantages they enjoy under apartheid, but this is not a justification for racism.

What is Canada doing about apartheid?

We are exerting pressure in several ways. One is through measures such as trade restrictions that are frankly intended to isolate South Africa, pressuring its government to work with representatives of the black majority in creating a non-radical representative government founded on equality.

Canada accepts the verdict of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons that only "concrete measures" will bring South Africa's white leaders to the bargaining table.

While the South African government still holds out against meaningful talks with black leaders, Canada pursues its own contacts with both blacks and whites in South Africa and with other concerned countries, looking for ways to break the impasse.

Canada also extends assistance to the victims of apartheid, inside South Africa and in neighbouring nations.

What measures has Canada imposed?

Since 1985, Canada has introduced more than two dozen sanctions developed by the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

For example, Canada has cut off imports of agricultural products that had been running at about \$75 million a year; limited consular services so it is more difficult for South Africans to get visas to visit Canada, and stopped new loans and investments in South Africa.

A survey of the whole list can be found elsewhere in this booklet.

Canadian business has also been pulling out of South Africa because, as the administrator of the Canadian Code of Conduct for Canadian Companies Operating in South Africa put it in his 1986 report, "the South African game is no longer worth the candle".