

While Resolution 435 vested responsibility for the supervision and control of the election campaign and elections in the UN, there was scope for others to observe and lend weight to the UN operation. Accordingly it was at the Committee's suggestion that a Commonwealth observer group, drawn from 7 countries, travelled to Namibia several weeks ago to report to this meeting on the situation and possible future arrangements. Their Report has been provided to you for consideration at this meeting. It has not been reviewed by the Committee of Foreign Ministers.

The Committee also looked beyond Namibian independence - an independence that could be threatened by South African political and military pressures. As a result the Committee asked the Secretary-General to explore the prospects for significantly expanded aid in the operational, developmental and constitutional fields.

We believe the Committee's very existence, and the publicity of our meetings, themselves became instruments of pressure. But we also learned that when eight countries sit down regularly to campaign against apartheid, we find new pressure points, new instruments of influence.

We identified a number of practical ways in which the Commonwealth can increase pressure upon the South African Government to end apartheid.

One of the most important is to emphasize financial links and establish an independent monitoring mechanism to provide objective information on South Africa's international financial relations.

Another is to confront and counter the efforts of South African censorship and propaganda in each of our countries.

A third is to act together to tighten and extend the mandatory arms embargo of the United Nations, including to prohibit the import of arms from South Africa.

A fourth, which can be pursued more diligently, is to organize joint demarches by Commonwealth countries on individual nations which have not introduced sanctions similar to those of the Commonwealth. We believe pressures of this kind helped encourage Japan to reduce its imports of South African coal.

None of these will work miracles. However, if pursued steadily and broadly, they increase the pressure for change.

So does visible active support for the victims of apartheid, and the opponents of apartheid.