

On that point, you will recall that, a year ago, President Botha promised that he would release Nelson Mandela when Anatoly Shcharansky, Andrei Sakharov, and a South African officer captured in Angola were released. We did not accept that linkage. Mr. Mandela should have been set free for South African reasons, whatever the fate of other prisoners in other countries. But since Mr. Botha raised the point, it is worth noting that Mr. Shcharansky is free in Israel; Mr. Sakharov is free in Moscow; why is Nelson Mandela still in prison in South Africa?

I have met three times with representatives of the African National Congress, most recently in Ottawa with Mr. Makatini, their foreign policy spokesman. The Prime Minister and I both look forward to meeting Mr. Tambo in months to come.

Canadian critics of the ANC condemn both its resort to violence, and the association of some of its leaders with the Soviet Union. Those are genuine concerns, which limit seriously the ability of ANC spokesmen to reach Canadians who profoundly oppose apartheid. Let me deal with both briefly.

The whole region of Southern Africa is caught in a downward spiral of violence. The root cause of that violence is apartheid, and that spiral will not be broken until apartheid is dismantled. That can happen violently or it can happen peacefully. As the Prime Minister said at Victoria Falls, we do not support violence. Canada is doing everything we can to promote peaceful change. At the same time we can understand that so oppressive a system as apartheid, when peaceful means have changed or closed, gives rise to violent opposition.

The African National Congress had fifty years of non-violent history until they were banned in their own country. Their leadership includes many who are moderate, and some who are not. If countries like

Canada turn away from the ANC, that would make everyone immoderate, and not only add to the prospect of violence, but give credence to the Marxist component. Soviet influence grows in violence and in vacuums, and it is profoundly in the interest of the West to seek to stop that violence, and fill those vacuums.