

Whatever the other tensions in Africa, the apartheid system is at the root of the violence which could tear southern Africa apart. If there was one cause for encouragement in my conversations in Africa last week, it was that everyone I met understood that violence would devastate the whole region, white and black, rich and poor, marxist and capitalist. The parties are divided not just by colour and experience, but by suspicion and fear, but at the end of the day there may be a common instinct, that violent confrontation is the worst of all alternatives. Attempts at pressure and at dialogue must both continue, and we believe that Canada has both the opportunity and the obligation to use our unusual influence constructively.

That brings me to the second area I want to emphasize. Canada is among the most active supporters of multilateral institutions - like the UN, the GATT, other organizations which bring different countries together. But there are two organizations which are more than multilateral - they are family - the families of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. We are the only developed country to belong to both - and that gives us bonds of language, tradition, often institutions, which reach across the economics and the geography which often divide the world.

Moreover, in each of the French and British empires, we were a colony too, so carry no imperialist baggage. For some time, the Commonwealth had slipped to the margins of Canadian foreign policy, and the Mulroney Government has brought it back to centre stage. La Francophonie had been stillborn, because of differences with Quebec which the Trudeau Government could not resolve, and Brian Mulroney did. Both those organizations meet in Canada this fall, la Francophonie in Quebec in two weeks, the Commonwealth in Vancouver in mid-October. They are different families, but with a common reach around the world, and Canada's membership in both together is unique and valuable.