

This approach was further refined in New Delhi. We unanimously agreed to recommend to Heads of Government that the arms embargo -- a mandatory sanction imposed by the United Nations Security Council -- should be maintained until a democratic government is firmly in place in South Africa. We further recommended that the financial sanctions, which we believe are the most effective measures, should be lifted only when agreement is reached on the text of a new constitution. But other economic sanctions, including trade and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms had been agreed which would enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations.

My colleagues and I unanimously agreed to recommend to Heads of Government the immediate lifting of the "people to people" sanctions. This step would not only acknowledge the substantial progress that has been made to date but would also facilitate dialogue and interaction with the anti-apartheid movements in South Africa.

Finally, a word on sports. The Commonwealth, through the Gleneagles Agreement, has led the international community on the question of sporting contacts with South Africa. We continue to do so. The Committee proposed that all Commonwealth restrictions in respect of an individual sport, including international competition, would be lifted when certain rigorous criteria had been achieved. This approach to the management of the sports embargo was subsequently adopted by the International Olympic Committee.

My colleagues and I believe that an important and delicate balance has been struck in the management of Commonwealth sanctions. We acknowledged the progress that has been made in recent months. We emphasize the crucial importance of formal negotiations on a new democratic government in South Africa. We shall maintain pressure on all the parties until a democratic government is in place in South Africa. We commend this approach to Heads of Government for your consideration and approval.

As Prime Minister Mulroney said yesterday, this is an act of historic leadership for the Commonwealth. Our sanctions were first because we were the most committed to change, to justice. Others followed. Now, we are almost there, almost able to turn our attention to the urgent and profound needs of the people. Our Committee's recommendations propose the way.

In addition to sanctions, the mandate of this Committee covers three areas: support for dialogue and negotiations in South Africa; aid for the victims of apartheid; and political developments in Southern Africa.