

This is just one of a number of measures the Canadian government is taking to promote peaceful change in South Africa. Last week I chaired the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Committee on Southern Africa in Abuja, Nigeria. The question at hand for the Committee was to determine the appropriate response to a South Africa in transition, whose future was hopeful but not yet assured. The Committee recognized the importance of continued efforts to encourage dialogue and negotiations towards a non-racial democracy. Canada is already playing an active role in this area and we aim to continue. We emphasized the urgent necessity to look beyond the negotiating process and help prepare for a post-apartheid South Africa. We announced an increase of \$1 million this year to expand our education and training programs for black South Africans.

We also reviewed the question of sanctions. There will no doubt come a time, hopefully sooner rather than later, when clear and irreversible change has occurred and it would be appropriate to ease some of the pressure that has helped bring that about. But at this crucial juncture, we took the position that the way to advance the process of democratization in South Africa was to maintain existing sanctions. To relax sanctions now would run the risk of aborting the negotiations process before it had properly begun. And given the importance of the international community acting in concert and not relaxing sanctions prematurely, we have made strong representations to the European Community and other key western countries urging them to hold the line on sanctions.

The question of apartheid is one of the most important international issues of our time. IDAFSA has been at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid--from the Rivonia trial in the Sixties to the Delmas treason trial of the eighties. This Annual Conference gives you an opportunity to reflect, to plan, and to rededicate yourself to the struggle for human rights and democracy in South Africa. Canada, for its part, will continue to give life and force to our commitment to the struggle against apartheid, until its last vestiges have disappeared and the way is paved for South Africa's return to the family of nations--democratic, just and free at last.