

S. Africa uses Canadian poll to back case against sanctions

OTTAWA (CP) — The South African embassy struck back yesterday at Canadians calling for more economic sanctions against their country, releasing a poll that indicates Canadians oppose such measures if they hurt the black majority.

The embassy, which has had the poll since May, released it only as Commonwealth Foreign Ministers met in Canberra, Australia, to consider further sanctions.

Canadian churches and other anti-apartheid groups have recently urged the government to support tougher economic measures against South Africa, where 5 million whites dominate 26 million blacks economically and politically.

The \$60,000 poll, conducted by Goldfarb Consultants of Toronto, indicated that 61 per cent of Canadians support sanctions in principle.

But asked if they would support sanctions or trade restrictions "if they resulted in hardship for black South Africans," only 37 per cent of those surveyed said yes. Fifty-two per cent were opposed.

Ambassador Hendrik de Klerk said majority Canadian opinion is in tune with black South Africa — that there is "abundant evidence that black South Africans do not want sanctions."

But Jabu Dube, a spokesman for the outlawed African National Congress, said the embassy interpreted the sanctions issue in "light of its own racist philosophy."

"If they're suddenly so concerned about possible suffering among black South Africans, why is there so much suffering, misery and oppression among the black majority?"

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