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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONDEMNS

SOUTH AFRICAN RESTRICTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE

COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, issued the following statement today on behalf of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa. The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa (of Australia, Canada, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) strongly and unequivocally condemns the Draconian new measures announced by the Government of South Africa against 17 organizations. These measures will limit severely if not totally prohibit political activity by a number of the most important groups engaged in non-violent opposition to apartheid and in providing support to its victims.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government at Vancouver unanimously reaffirmed the commitments of their governments to work together towards an end to apartheid and the injustices and suffering it brings about for most South Africans and for their neighbours. The Government of South Africa must enter into meaningful negotiations with authentic leaders of the majority of the South African population. Instead of moving in this direction it has chosen to place further restrictions on their fundamental political rights.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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