

# News Release

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## MINISTER CLARK PRESENTS PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN GAMES

CANBERRA - The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today presented a comprehensive proposal aimed at strengthening the institution of the Commonwealth Games and at assisting developing countries seeking to host the Games.

Mr. Clark discussed his initiative with colleagues from nine other Commonwealth countries at the Committee of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on Southern Africa which he is chairing in the Australian capital. The Ministers agreed to a meeting of Commonwealth representatives to examine the proposals in detail.

The Canadian proposals seek to strengthen the Games by making it easier for less wealthy nations to act as host for the competitions which take place every four years.

"The Games are a valuable institution that promote athletic excellence and fitness and, just as important, provide a means for people in Commonwealth countries to get to know and appreciate each other better," said Mr. Clark.

He noted that, in recent years, there have been dissension and boycotts, real or threatened, over the policies of various member countries towards South Africa. The Secretary of State for External Affairs explained that the Canadian proposals are not a direct response to recent threats of boycott or banning. However, it is hoped the proposals would enable the developing nations to feel a stronger sense of identification with the Games, counter the notion that the Games are mainly for the rich countries, and generally increase Commonwealth co-operation and goodwill.

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Secretary of State  
for  
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aux  
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Canada