

# News Release

# Communiqué

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## JOE CLARK COMMENTS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, issued the following statement today on recent developments in South Africa: the municipal elections, the threatened banning of the newspaper, the Weekly Mail, the increasing incidence of violence and the banning of two more anti-apartheid organizations.

"The October 26 municipal elections were undemocratic, because they were organized on a strictly racial basis and severely limited the number of blacks eligible to vote. Pretoria's claim that about one-third of registered black voters cast their ballots in no way can be interpreted as acceptance by blacks of that Government's policies or approach to reform. Only a tiny percentage of black South Africans were able or willing to vote. Canada's position is that the South African Government must enter into negotiations with blacks who are genuine leaders within their community, towards the establishment of non-racial, representative government.

The Government of Canada is very concerned over the threatened banning of the Weekly Mail by the South African Government and has made representations directly to the South African Minister of Home Affairs. The Weekly Mail and other newspapers previously banned are under attack because they present a picture of events different from that provided by Pretoria. The South African Government seems determined to hide from its citizens and those outside the horrors of apartheid and the views of those who oppose that system. The Government of South Africa must recognize that apartheid is the problem; a free press is part of the solution.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
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Canada