

'NEW LEVELS'

BUT SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL, THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL, SAID TODAY THAT APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA IS "RESORTING TO NEW LEVELS OF OPPRESSION."

RAMPHAL SAID CENSORSHIP AND PROPAGANDA IN SOUTH AFRICA "MASSIVELY DISTORTS REALITY."

"AND LET US BE CLEAR ALSO THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA TODAY IS ONE OF DETERIORATION, NOT RELIEF, FOR FREEDOM."

"EVEN AS IT PIROUETTES AROUND NELSON MANDELA'S RELEASE, PRETORIA IS PUTTING AWAY ANOTHER GENERATION OF BLACK LEADERS," SAID RAMPHAL, A GUYANESE DIPLOMAT.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER BOB HAWKE TOOK ISSUE WITH REBEL CRICKETERS FROM ENGLAND AND AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF RUGBY PLAYERS, INCLUDING SOME FROM AUSTRALIA, WHO ARE PLANNING A TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA.

"SOME CLAIM THEY BELIEVE THAT THESE EVENTS WILL ACTUALLY HELP BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS OF APARTHEID," HAWKE SAID AT THE OPENING.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE OPPOSITE IS THE CASE."

RAMPHAL SAID HE CONDEMNS THE SPORTSMEN FOR "HAVING ALLOWED GREED TO GET THE BETTER OF PRINCIPLE."

BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ANY BOYCOTT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, IN JANUARY. SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE CALLED FOR SUCH A BOYCOTT IF ENGLAND IS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAMES.

"WE DO NOTHING TO RENEGADE CRICKETERS, OR FOR THAT MATTER, TO EVEN MORE CHRONICALLY RENEGADE RUGBY PLAYERS, BY MAKING THE ATHLETES OF THE COMMONWEALTH THE EFFECTIVE TARGET OF OUR RESPONSE," RAMPHAL SAID.

CLARK ALSO COMMENTED ON THE POSSIBLE BOYCOTT OF THE GAMES, SAYING, "WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE THREAT TO A VIABLE AND IMPORTANT COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTION."

'DISSUADE' ATHLETES

HE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE CRICKET TOUR BY TRYING "MORAL-SUASION AS THEY HAVE TO DISSUADE SOME OF THEIR ATHLETES."

ON SUNDAY, CLARK SAID THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO "THE FIGHT TO BRING AN END TO APARTHEID."

HE WAS RESPONDING IN PART TO THE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS' REPORT, SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE TUESDAY BUT RELEASED IN PART IN CANADA DURING THE WEEKEND BY THE TORONTO COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

IT CRITICIZED CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING PRETORIA'S APARTHEID POLICIES AND QUESTIONED WHETHER OTTAWA IS DOING ENOUGH IN THE AREA OF TRADE SANCTIONS.

THE REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES CUT OFF ALL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

"I DON'T SEE THAT AS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AT THIS STAGE," CLARK SAID IN REFERENCE TO WHAT SOME COUNTRIES CONSIDER TOO DRASTIC A STEP. "THE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF THE (CURRENT) COMMONWEALTH EFFORT IS THAT WE CAN CAUSE OTHERS TO COME WITH US."

CLARK SAID THE REPORT WILL BE PASSED ALONG FOR DISCUSSION AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, IN OCTOBER.

UNDER THE WHITE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT'S APARTHEID POLICIES, THE FIVE MILLIONS SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES CONTROL THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND THE ECONOMY AND MAINTAIN SEGREGATED NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS. THE BLACK MAJORITY IS DENIED THE VOTE, AMONG MANY OTHER THINGS.

CLARK IS JOINED AT THE CONFERENCE BY AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARETH EVANS AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM GUYANA, INDIA, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE.

FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE, CLARK WILL HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THURSDAY BEFORE RETURNING TO CANADA.