

AM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA; BGT; 0771
BUDGET

By DENNIS PASSA

CANBERRA (CP) - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK SAID SUNDAY THAT PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S WHITE-MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF TRADE AND OTHER SANCTIONS MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD "UNTIL THERE IS CLEAR PROOF THAT APARTHEID IS BEING DISMANTLED."

"THAT IS THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA," CLARK DECLARED ON THE EVE OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. "WE ARE IN THIS FIGHT TO BRING AN END TO APARTHEID; AND THAT WILL BE A PRIORITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT UNTIL THAT BATTLE IS WON."

CLARK, CHAIRMAN OF THE THREE-DAY MEETING WHICH OPENS IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TODAY, WAS RESPONDING IN PART TO RECENT CRITICISM OF CANADA IN A REPORT COMMISSIONED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE, IN FEBRUARY.

THAT REPORT, SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CANBERRA CONFERENCE TUESDAY BUT RELEASED IN PART IN CANADA LAST WEEK BY THE TORONTO COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, CRITICIZED THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING PRETORIA'S APARTHEID RACIAL SEPARATION POLICIES AND QUESTIONED WHETHER OTTAWA IS DOING ENOUGH IN THE AREA OF TRADE SANCTIONS.

INCLUDED IN THE INDEPENDENT REPORT IS A RECOMMENDATION 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."

THE REPORT SAYS THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S DEBT, WHICH PRETORIA IS HOPING TO HAVE RESCHEDULED, NOW STANDS AT THE EQUIVALENT OF MORE THAN \$20 BILLION CDN, WITH THE MAJORITY OF IT COMING UP FOR REPAYMENT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

IT SAYS THAT ANY NEW SANCTIONS INTRODUCED DURING THIS PERIOD WILL SERIOUSLY COMPOUND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

FOR SUMMIT DISCUSSION

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

SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL, THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL, APPEARED TO TONE DOWN COMMENTS HE MADE EARLIER SUNDAY IN A RADIO INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE QUESTIONED THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY IN FIGHTING APARTHEID.

"I THINK CANADA WILL SHAPE UP AT KUALA LUMPUR," THE GUYANESE DIPLOMAT SAID FOLLOWING A SUNDAY AFTERNOON MEETING WITH CLARK.

WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN WHAT HE MEANT BY "SHAPE UP," RAMPHAL REPLIED: "I THINK CANADA WILL SHAPE UP TO THE TRADITIONS, THE ROLES, THE RESPONSIBILITIES IT'S CARRIED OVER THE YEARS. I HAVE MUCH FAITH IN CANADA."

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

RAMPHAL ALSO SAID THAT RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TOURS BY ENGLISH CRICKETERS AND BY RUGBY PLAYERS FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, HAS THROWN A CLOUD OVER NEXT YEAR'S COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

HE SAID THE SCHEDULED TOURS WERE "VERY CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED," THAT "PRETORIA HAS HAD A BIG HAND IN THIS."

IN THE CASE OF THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS, A FORMER NATIONAL TEAM CAPTAIN WILL BE PAID THE EQUIVALENT OF \$200,000 CDN TO LEAD A TOUR OF HIS COUNTRYMEN TO SOUTH AFRICA OVER THE NEXT TWO SUMMERS THERE.

"SOUTH AFRICA IS SAYING THAT WITH ENOUGH MONEY, THEY CAN BUY OFF ISOLATION, WHICH IS PART OF THE PRICE OF APARTHEID," RAMPHAL SAID.

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