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STATE OF EMERGENCY RENEWED IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed his profound disappointment that the South African Government has decided to renew the State of Emergency.

"There is absolutely no basis for this action and it reflects the fact that apartheid has to be maintained through force. While an end to the State of Emergency would not have meant an end to repression in South Africa or changed the fundamental structure of apartheid, a decision not to renew it could have been an important gesture. Canada will keep up its pressure on the South African Government to dismantle apartheid and enter into negotiations with genuine black leaders towards the establishment of non-racial, representative government. The South African Government should not expect its citizens or the international community to be satisfied with talk rather than action on reform, particularly in light of its unwarranted renewal of the State of Emergency."

The State of Emergency has been renewed annually since its June 12, 1986 imposition. Under State of Emergency regulations, South African security forces have wide-ranging powers to stifle arbitrarily non-violent opposition through detention without trial, severe restrictions on the activities of political organizations and individuals, the banning of events and censorship. Canada has repeatedly called on the South African Government to end the State of Emergency.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada