

Blacks denied higher education, report contends

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The South African government prohibits advanced education for blacks and then cites their lack of training to argue that they could not manage in a post-apartheid society, said a study released yesterday.

"In South Africa, blacks have been denied the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to manage the public- and private-sector institutions," said the report, presented by Edward Scott, the Anglican Archbishop of Toronto.

Archbishop Scott, also a director of the South Africa Education Trust Fund, presented the report to the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa on the final day of a three-day meeting.

The report recommends that a Skills for South Africa program be endorsed by the Commonwealth heads of government when they meet in October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Archbishop Scott said after his presentation that advanced education is one of the ways black South Africans will force Pretoria into a multi-racial society.

"As an example, there are only 25 black accountants in a country of 33 million people, 85 per cent of whom are black," he said. "And there's been only one black person graduate this year in South Africa in computer science."

By law and custom, apartheid establishes a racially segregated society in which South Africa's black majority has no vote in national affairs.