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ARSON AT SOUTH AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS HEADQUARTERS:

VIOLENCE REVISITED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today condemned this morning's fire bomb attack on the headquarters of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) in Pretoria, South Africa.

Mr. Clark said, "This work by arsonists against a well known human rights centre is all too reminiscent of the August 31 bombing in Johannesburg of Khotso House, headquarters of the South African Council of Churches and other groups active in promoting and defending human rights in South Africa. These and other acts of violence from whatever quarters only cause hardship and in some cases injury or death to innocent people. These cruel acts are also to be deplored because they serve to set back efforts to bring about peaceful change and the end of apartheid in South Africa. The Canadian Government hopes that those responsible for these violent acts would soon be brought to justice."

Last month Mr. Clark pledged Canadian assistance to help rebuild Khotso House. The SACBC also provides humanitarian support for victims of apartheid. Mr. Clark stated that Canada would be prepared to consider possible Canadian assistance in the rebuilding of the SACBC headquarters.

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