



news release

Date July 29, 1988.
For release

No. 162

CANADA TIGHTENS POLICY ON SPORTS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, the Honourable Jean Charest, announced today that, effective immediately, individuals travelling on South African passports and seeking entry into Canada to participate in a sport event or activity will be denied visas.

The policy revision follows the statement on March 2, 1988 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the Canadian Government's commitment to the widening, tightening and intensifying of sanctions directed at apartheid in South Africa. Recent events have highlighted the necessity of tightening the existing policy which had already succeeded in excluding over 95% of sporting contacts with South Africa. Representatives of all Parties in the House of Commons joined this week to support a shift in Canadian policy in this area.

"This action is fully in keeping with the major role the Canadian Government has played in the international struggle against apartheid", Mr. Clark said. Canada was instrumental in drafting the 1977 Gleneagles Agreement which encourages Commonwealth governments to vigorously combat apartheid by taking every practical step to discourage contact or competition with sport persons from South Africa.

"The Canadian Government recognizes that the cooperation and assistance of national sport organizations and hosts of Canadian sporting events are essential to the successful application of the sporting contacts policy. The Government calls upon those bodies to join all Canadians in tangibly expressing opposition to apartheid both within Canada and in international fora", Mr. Charest added.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Lyle Makosky, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Fitness and Amateur Sport, (613) 235-9058

Georges Rioux, Media Relations Office,
Department of External Affairs, (416) 947-1477.