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CANADA ENCOURAGED BY PEACEFUL  
MARCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, applauded the large, orderly and entirely peaceful protest marches which have taken place over the past three days in South Africa, and the restraint shown by police.

"The historic Cape Town march was a deeply moving victory for good judgement and common sense."

Mr. Clark had earlier expressed shock at the brutal police response to protests by black South Africans over their denial of political, social and other rights under the system of apartheid, and had urged the South African Government to exercise maximum restraint.

"I am encouraged by the South African Government's promise both to investigate recent instances of police violence and not to interfere with peaceful political protests. If President-elect F.W. de Klerk's professed desire to begin a dialogue about a new South Africa is to become a reality, these promises must be kept. I remain deeply concerned, however, about the continuing detentions of leading opposition figures and urge their immediate release. Other important steps must also be taken, including the lifting of the State of Emergency, the release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners, the unbanning of the ANC and other political parties and the initiation, in the context of a suspension of violence on all sides, of negotiations towards the establishment of non-racial, representative government."

Mr. Clark praised march leaders and participants for the disciplined, orderly manner in which the anti-violence, anti-apartheid protests have been conducted, and said they demonstrate massive popular support for a new, non-racial South Africa.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures