STRATEGY TO COUNTER SOUTH AFRICAN PROPAGANDA AND CENSORSHIP:

CANADIAN ACTION PLAN

Canada is prepared immediately to begin implementing elements of the strategy. To do so, $1 million will be spent between now and the CHOGM in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

The maze of South African government restrictions and regulations governing the media are increasingly severe. Ensuring that newspaper copy does not affront these restrictions is a burdensome and uncertain task. Canada therefore proposes to contribute to a legal advisory fund to help the alternative press cope with government-imposed impediments to accurate reporting.

Individual journalists similarly can easily run afoul of censorship laws. A group has recently been formed to help them. Canada will provide funding to this group.

The Canadian embassy in Pretoria will engage in more effective public affairs activities, including an enhanced media relations program, identifying target audiences and reaching them with news and information from abroad.

Groups of concerned citizens, in Canada and elsewhere, have worked diligently to blunt the effects of South African propaganda and to reduce the effectiveness of the South African government's censorship. The Canadian government will work more closely with these groups and provide support for their work.

There have been two major international conferences in recent years where leading representatives of the media discussed shared problems flowing from South African propaganda and censorship. These have proved valuable and should be repeated periodically. Canada plans therefore to convene a major conference at a Canadian school of journalism focussing on South African propaganda and censorship and the risks and challenges it poses to the international media.

Key figures in the sport and entertainment industries have been invaluable in focussing attention on apartheid and engaging public opinion. The Canadian government will seek to further mobilize the sport and entertainment industries in increasing public awareness.