

PM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA; DL BGT 1ST LD; 0793
 1ST LEAD - 477 (UPDATES WITH MEETING CONCLUDED; REMARKS; NO
 PICKUP)

By DENNIS PASSA

CANBERRA (CP) - EIGHT COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS FORGED A UNITED FRONT TODAY IN RECOMMENDING FINANCIAL SANCTIONS TO FORCE SOUTH AFRICA TO END APARTHEID; BUT DEFERRED ANY DECISION ON NEW TRADE SANCTIONS.

THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA CONCLUDED WITH A COMMUNIQUE RECOMMENDING THAT FINANCIAL TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA BE THE FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON PRETORIA.

THE SUBJECT OF INCREASED SANCTIONS WILL AGAIN BE DISCUSSED AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN OCTOBER IN KUALA LUMPUR; SAID EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK; CHAIRMAN OF THE THREE-DAY MEETING.

BENJAMIN MKAPA; FOREIGN MINISTER FOR TANZANIA; SAID HE WILL BE PUSHING FOR ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AT THE KUALA LUMPUR MEETING BUT IT WOULD BE UP TO THE COMMONWEALTH LEADERS TO DECIDE.

"FOR NOW, I AM HAPPY THAT WE HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON HITTING SOUTH AFRICA'S FINANCIAL TIES," MKAPA SAID. "WE HAVE TO MAKE THOSE AND EXISTING TRADE SANCTIONS WORK TOGETHER AS A PACKAGE."

TRADE SANCTIONS REFER TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF GOODS AND SERVICES; WHEREAS FINANCIAL SANCTIONS INVOLVE MONETARY DEALINGS SUCH AS LOANS AND DEBT RESTRUCTURING.

CLARK SAID FOLLOWING THE MEETING THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM TWO OR MORE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WILL VISIT NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ANNOUNCED TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BUT NOT ADHERED TO THEM. SUCH COUNTRIES INCLUDE WEST GERMANY; THE UNITED STATES; BRAZIL AND JAPAN; HE SAID.

"WE'VE ALREADY STARTED TO DO THAT IN SOME RESPECT," CLARK SAID. "I'VE MET WITH THE JAPANESE AND IN THE U.S. BUT NOW WE WILL LIKELY INCREASE IT SO THAT TWO OR MORE COMMONWEALTH REPRESENTATIVES WILL VISIT."

SANCTIONS DISCUSSED

THE ISSUE OF INCREASED TRADE SANCTIONS HIGHLIGHTED THE MEETING IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL.

BOTH MKAPA AND MAJ.-GEN. IKE NHACHUKWU; NIGERIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTERS; HAVE GONE ON RECORD AS SAYING THEY WANTED INCREASED SANCTIONS.

THEY AND THE MINISTERS OF THE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE COMMITTEE APPEAR CONTENTED FOR NOW WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN AN INDEPENDENT REPORT THAT CALLED FOR A TOTAL BAN ON TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN FIVE YEARS; AND OTHER SANCTIONS.

THE REPORT; COMMISSIONED BY THE COMMITTEE IN HARARE IN FEBRUARY; WAS ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE TUESDAY AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE KUALA LUMPUR SUMMIT.

IN OTHER POINTS COVERED BY THE COMMUNIQUE; THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT A TEAM BE SENT TO NAMIBIA TO ASSIST IN THAT TERRITORY'S INDEPENDENCE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

IT DENOUNCED SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTEMPTS TO DESTABILIZE ITS NEIGHBORS - THE SO-CALLED FRONTLINE BLACK AFRICAN STATES.

THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BOYCOTT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN AUCKLAND; NEW ZEALAND; IN JANUARY.

SOME AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES ARE UPSET THAT ENGLISH CRICKETERS AND AUSTRALIAN RUGBY PLAYERS PLAN TO TOUR SOUTH AFRICA; AND HAVE THREATENED A BOYCOTT.

NEW ZEALAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER RUSSELL MARSHALL MET WITH THE COMMITTEE IN AN ATTEMPT TO WARD OFF THE BOYCOTT.

HE SUGGESTED THAT PRETORIA COULD BE "USING THE PRESENT SITUATION TO DIVIDE US." HE SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC AFTER SPEAKING WITH CLARK AND HIS COUNTERPARTS FROM AUSTRALIA; GUYANA; INDIA; NIGERIA; TANZANIA; ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE.

(216)

1/2