

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable James Kelleher, PC, MP, today issued the following statement.

The tragic events of recent weeks in South Africa have now culminated in the imposition of a state of emergency. The Canadian Government cannot but vigorously condemn the use of repressive measures to counter protests against injustice and inequality. We deplore violence from any quarter, but we cannot ignore that it is discrimination, exclusion and rejection which have brought about this desperate situation. The danger of wider conflict and the urgent need for a change of course were reflected in the policy statement on South Africa which the Secretary of State for External Affairs issued in Baie Comeau on July 6. As he did then, I call again upon the Government of South Africa to break this cycle of violence, to abandon repression and to enter into an equal and sincere partnership with all South Africans.