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AM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA; NL BGT; 0581
NIGHT LEAD BUDGET

By DENNIS PASSA

CANBERRA (CP) - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK WON'T ALLOW SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBASSADOR TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS, SAYING THE PURPOSE OF THEIR MEETING IS TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE "WHO ARE OFTEN SILENCED."

CLARK REJECTED THE REQUEST AFTER SAYING MONDAY HE REGRETS THAT SOUTH AFRICA STOPPED AN ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVIST FROM SPEAKING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. CLARK IS CHAIRMAN OF THE THREE-DAY MEETING THAT BEGAN ON MONDAY.

THE MINISTERS WANTED TO HEAR FROM AZHAR CACHALIA, TREASURER OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT. BUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A DETENTION ORDER AGAINST HIM.

THE FRONT IS SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION AND HAS ABOUT TWO MILLION MEMBERS.

CLARK TOLD REPORTERS HE TURNED DOWN A REQUEST FROM DAVID TOTHILL, THE SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE OFTEN SILENCED," CLARK SAID.

TOTHILL WAS THE AUTHOR OF A PAID ADVERTISEMENT IN AN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ON SATURDAY THAT EFFECTIVELY TOLD THE COMMONWEALTH TO STOP MEDDLING IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SANCTIONS SOUGHT

SEVERAL GROUPS APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS GUERRILLA MOVEMENT TO END WHITE RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY CALLED FOR INCREASED SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, ECHOING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTERS.

CLARK TOLD REPORTERS ON MONDAY THAT PRESSURE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON SOUTH AFRICA TO ABANDON APARTHEID.

BUT HE SAID THERE IS LITTLE MORE THE COMMONWEALTH CAN DO BEYOND ECONOMIC AND OTHER SANCTIONS AGREED UPON AT ITS TWO PREVIOUS MEETINGS IN 1985 AND 1987.

"WE ARE FOLLOWING THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO WIDEN, TIGHTEN AND INTENSIFY THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS."

HE ADDED: "WE DO NOT HAVE THE LEVERAGE ALONE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA. WHAT WE CAN DO IS ENCOURAGE OTHER ECONOMIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO MOVE WITH US."

AN INDEPENDENT REPORT ALSO SUGGESTED TOUGHER SANCTIONS, RECOMMENDING THAT COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES STOP ALL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

"I DON'T SEE THAT AS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AT THIS STAGE," CLARK SAID SUNDAY.

EARLIER TODAY, A CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL RELEASED DETAILS OF A PROPOSAL THAT HE SAID WILL HELP STRENGTHEN THE FUTURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

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192