

# News Release

# Communiqué

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extérieures

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CANADA WELCOMES RELEASE OF WALTER SISULU  
AND OTHER SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the announcement by South African President F.W. de Klerk that ANC leader Walter Sisulu and seven other political prisoners would be released unconditionally.

"Walter Sisulu and the other black leaders were imprisoned alongside Nelson Mandela for their opposition to apartheid. Canada welcomes the decision to free them. I hope they will also be allowed to work for the freedom of all their countrymen from the system of apartheid."

Mr. Clark noted that their long-overdue release indicates that the Government is beginning to respond to growing internal and external pressure for change and represents some movement towards improving the climate for dialogue and negotiations about a non-racial democracy in South Africa. He now called on the South African Government to take other urgent steps to facilitate negotiations - specifically, releasing Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees, lifting the State of Emergency and unbanning the ANC and other political organizations.

Mr. Clark also welcomed the meeting today between President de Klerk and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev. Allan Boesak and the Rev. Frank Chikane. He expressed the hope that President de Klerk would heed the call by these church leaders to take action to dismantle the apartheid system and enter into negotiations with black leaders towards the creation of non-racial, representative government.

- 30 -

Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada