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CANADA TIGHTENS BAN ON SPORTING CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Ottawa -- The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Jean Charest, Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, today announced a strengthened Government policy on Sporting Contacts between Canada and South Africa.

Effective immediately, the policy is extended to include all sporting contacts between Canadians and South Africans whether they take place in Canada, in South Africa or in a third country. Features of the policy are:

- In addition to amateur representative team and individual sports, the revised policy now applies to individual sport persons, including professionals;

- Henceforth Canadian sport organizations are expected to decline invitations to, withdraw from or protest events in third countries in which South Africans are participating and to discourage their members from participating in such events;

- Canadian sport organizations are requested to suspend athletes and officials under their purview who participate in sport events in South Africa and to press their international federation to take similar action;

- Observance of the Government's policy by Canadian sport organizations will henceforth be taken into account in funding decisions;

- The Canadian Government will take action designed to strengthen and extend the international sport boycott of South Africa by working through diplomatic and intergovernmental channels.

The policy takes the Government as far as it can go within the limits of Canadian and international law. "We are exercising the full extent of our authority," said Mr. Clark.

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