

# News Release

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External  
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# Communiqué

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## JOE CLARK LETTER TO PIK BOTHA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, on August 10, 1989, in his capacity as Chairman of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, sent the following letter to Pik Botha, South African Foreign Minister.

"Canberra, Australia,  
August 10, 1989

Dear Mr. Botha,

Thank you for your letter of August 7 and your continued interest in the work of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers, which has just met in Canberra.

You have argued that South Africa's role in the sub-continent has been a positive one, holding up the process of transition to independence for Namibia as proof. At our meeting in Harare the Committee had strongly welcomed the agreements which were finally to permit the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435, and at Canberra we noted the progress to date. We are greatly concerned, however, about South African actions in Namibia which could endanger the holding of free and fair elections.

Specifically, we believe your government needs to address urgently the following specific issues:

- Intimidation by former Koevoet members now integrated into SWAPOL remains a serious impediment to a free and fair electoral process. Steps must be taken to prevent such intimidation against voters.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada