

PM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA; DL BGT; 0543
 DAY LEAD BUDGET

By DENNIS PASSA

CANBERRA (CP) - EIGHT COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS CONCLUDE TODAY THEIR THREE-DAY MEETING AFTER AGREEING TO ASK BANKS TO PUT FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO END APARTHEID.

THE MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, WHICH BEGAN MONDAY IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL, IS TO ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE OUTLINING THEIR STANCE ON SANCTIONS AGAINST PRETORIA'S RACE POLICIES THAT ENABLE FIVE MILLION WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA TO DOMINATE 26 MILLION BLACKS.

EARLIER TODAY, RUSSEL MARSHALL, NEW ZEALAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MADE A PLEA AT THE CONFERENCE AGAINST A THREATENED BOYCOTT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES NEXT YEAR IN AUCKLAND.

SOME COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES ARE ANGRY THAT ENGLISH CRICKET PLAYERS AND AUSTRALIAN RUGBY PLAYERS PLAN TO TOUR SOUTH AFRICA DESPITE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT DISCOURAGING SPORTING LINKS WITH THAT COUNTRY. THESE COUNTRIES HAVE SUGGESTED A BOYCOTT OF THE GAMES IN PROTEST.

PRETORIA COULD BE "USING THE PRESENT SITUATION TO DIVIDE US," MARSHALL SAID.

MARSHALL SAID HE HAS SPOKEN WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK AND HIS COUNTERPARTS FROM AUSTRALIA, GUYANA, INDIA, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE "ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES AS A WHOLE."

MARSHALL SAID THE TALKS LEFT HIM OPTIMISTIC.

'STUNT MEN'

AS THE FINAL DAY OF MEETINGS OPENED TODAY, CLARK TOLD REPORTERS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TURNS ITS AMBASSADORS INTO "STUNT MEN" WHENEVER THE COMMONWEALTH MEETS TO DISCUSS APARTHEID.

CLARK, CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, WAS RESPONDING TO A POLL RELEASED IN OTTAWA TUESDAY BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY INDICATING CANADIANS OPPOSE SANCTIONS IF THEY HURT THE BLACK MAJORITY.

"WELL, IT'S A CURIOUS FACT THAT WHILE SOUTH AFRICA TRIES TO DISCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH, EVERY TIME WE HOLD A MEETING THEY TURN THEIR AMBASSADORS INTO STUNT MEN," CLARK SAID.

"THEY RELEASE PARTIAL RESULTS OF OLD POLLS IN OTTAWA AND ASK FOR THE RIGHT FOR THEIR AMBASSADOR IN AUSTRALIA TO SPEAK TO US," CLARK SAID. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THEN DENIES TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO OTHERS WISHING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

ON MONDAY, CLARK REJECTED A REQUEST FROM DAVID TOTHILL, SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. EARLIER THAT DAY, THE MINISTERS LEARNED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD PREVENTED AZHAR CACHALIA, TREASURER OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION, FROM LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA TO SPEAK TO THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS.

HAS INFLUENCE

CLARK SAID THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVITIES INDICATE "THE COMMONWEALTH IS AN INSTRUMENT WITH UNUSUAL INFLUENCE AND I THINK THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT."

ON TUESDAY, THE MINISTERS AGREED TO ASK BANKS TO IMPOSE TOUGH REPAYMENT TERMS ON THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS SOUTH AFRICA OWES THEM.

THE MINISTERS SAID BANKS SHOULD EXERT AS MUCH PRESSURE AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT MAKING SOUTH AFRICA DEFAULT ON ITS LOANS. THE PROPOSALS WERE MADE IN LIGHT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NEED TO RESCHEDULE ITS FOREIGN DEBT BY JUNE 1990.

"THE WORLD KNOWS THAT THE RESCHEDULING QUESTION IS URGENT," CLARK TOLD REPORTERS.

THE MINISTERS SAID THEY WOULD LOBBY GOVERNMENTS TO STOP GRANTING CREDIT TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR TRADE DEALS, WHICH THEY SAID CUSHION PRETORIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER AN INDEPENDENT REPORT THAT SUGGESTS IMPOSING MORE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

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