

PM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA; DL BGT 1ST LD; 0830
 1ST LEAD - 562 (UPDATES WITH AMBASSADOR REJECTED; DETAILS FROM
 HANLON; TRIMS; NO PICKUP)

By DENNIS PASSA

CANBERRA (CP) - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK; EXPRESSING REGRET THAT PRETORIA STOPPED AN ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVIST FROM SPEAKING TO COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS; REJECTED TODAY A REQUEST FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBASSADOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THEM.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED A DETENTION ORDER TO PREVENT AZHAR CACHALIA; TREASURER OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT; FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE FRONT IS SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION. ITS 600 AFFILIATES HAVE ABOUT TWO MILLION MEMBERS.

CLARK; CHAIRMAN OF THE THREE-DAY COMMONWEALTH MEETING; EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT PRETORIA'S DECISION AND THEN TOLD REPORTERS HE HAS TURNED DOWN A LAST-MINUTE 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.

A SENIOR CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN SAID CACHALIA WAS PREVENTED FROM LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE HE HAD STAYED OUT OF THE COUNTRY TOO LONG WITHOUT GOVERNMENT PERMISSION THE LAST TIME HE TRAVELLED OVERSEAS. CACHALIA; A LAWYER; MET BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER AND U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH ON THAT TRIP.

INCREASED SANCTIONS

SEVERAL OTHER GROUPS APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING; INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS GUERRILLA MOVEMENT TO END WHITE RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THEY CALLED FOR INCREASED SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

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

THE 1990 GAMES IN AUCKLAND; NEW ZEALAND; ARE FACING A POSSIBLE BOYCOTT BECAUSE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE UPSET ABOUT PLANNED CRICKET AND RUGBY TOURS OF SOUTH AFRICA BY ATHLETES FROM BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA. THE 1986 GAMES IN EDINBURGH WERE MARRED BY A BOYCOTT BY NEARLY HALF OF THE ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.

THE MAIN THRUST OF THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL - TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY - IS THAT A PROGRAM BE INSTITUTED TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HOST THE GAMES.

CANADA IS RECOMMENDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE HOST COUNTRY; TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES TO ASSIST PARTICIPATION; CREATION OF A COMMONWEALTH GAMES TRUST TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS; AND A REVAMPING OF THE GAMES HEADQUARTERS OPERATION.

CANADA RECOMMENDS A MEETING BE HELD IN LONDON IN SEPTEMBER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DEVELOP DETAILS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN OCTOBER IN KUALA LUMPUR; MALAYSIA.

IF APPROVED THERE; THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE SENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION MEETING IN JANUARY IN AUCKLAND WHERE THE 1990 GAMES WILL BE HELD.

THE LAST TIME THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES WERE HELD IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WAS IN 1966 IN JAMAICA. THE GAMES ARE TO BE HELD IN VICTORIA IN 1994; BUT THERE IS INTEREST FROM KENYA; BARBADOS AND JAMAICA TO HOST THE GAMES IN 1998. 1/2