

# PM wins

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Southam News

**VENICE** — After chalking up partial successes on farm problems and South Africa at the Venice summit, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will meet today with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Canada made headway on agricultural trade and achieved a minor victory on the highly-charged topic of South Africa, which Mulroney made his major personal issue during the three-day meeting.

However, his meeting today with Reagan, which will be dominated by the struggling free-trade negotiations, may overshadow the three days of bilateral meetings with leaders of the world's seven major in-

# partial victory at summit

dustrial democracies.

Mulroney's bid to criticize Pretoria's apartheid policies in the summit's final communiqué was denied by the United States, Britain and West Germany. But summit host Amintore Fanfani, the Italian prime minister, took a different tack and issued a blunt challenge to South Africa in his closing remarks to the other leaders.

Mulroney admitted Fanfani's expression of concern about South Africa would "do nothing" to eliminate apartheid immediately, but he said the fact that leaders discussed the problem at all "is going to do a lot for the young blacks in South Africa who hear about it."

The Italian leader said: "We agreed that a peace-

ful and lasting solution (in South Africa) can only be found in the present crisis if the apartheid regime is dismantled and replaced by a new form of democratic, non-racial government."

Several countries, notably Britain and West Germany, were not prepared to approve the strong condemnation of Pretoria that Canada had been seeking.

The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said the summit consensus was that now is the wrong time to be starting new initiatives on South Africa.

Mulroney said he "argued simply that the failure of this summit to speak out on this would be a

grievous error."

He added: "This is a moral issue that cannot go unaddressed. Our failure would be the most powerful message you could send to South Africa."

Mulroney said he was satisfied with the agreement reached by the seven leaders on agriculture.

In what he called "an important step in the right direction," they pledged to consider a stepped-up timetable for negotiated solutions to the world grain wars that are bankrupting farmers in Canada and elsewhere.

However, reducing the massive farm support programs in the U.S. and Europe will still be a long-term effort, Mulroney said.

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## Summit

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term effort, Mulroney said.

"Farmers would be the first to tell you, it's not a problem that's going to be solved tomorrow," the prime minister said at a press conference.

On the whole, Mulroney did better than most of the leaders attending the 13th annual conference, which will stand out for its lack of concerted action.



Mulroney

Attending To meet Reagan were the leaders of Canada, the U.S., Italy, Britain, West Germany, France and Japan.

Under pressure from the U.S., Britain and Canada, the other nations lent their support to a decision last month by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which called for governments to reduce expensive farm support programs distorting the world grain market.

Efforts at the international level to accomplish this goal will now be reviewed at the next sum-

mit, which Mulroney confirmed will be held about a year from now in Toronto.

Progress in Venice, where this year most of the leaders were facing either imminent elections or political turmoil at home, was measured in inches.

Other results include:

- The leaders' underscored their support for free trade, international economic co-operation and efforts to stabilize currency rates. In particular, the seven nations pledged to set medium-term economic policy objectives to be monitored by all the summit nations.

- There was agreement that world financial institutions should provide relief to debt-ridden Third World countries such as those in sub-Saharan Africa.

- On AIDS, the summit leaders agreed to co-operate in battling the deadly disease and called for intensified medical research and more public education about the seriousness of the current epidemic.

In a separate statement on drugs, they called for a global campaign against the production and distribution of narcotics and to find substitute crops for peasants who grow them.

The seven leaders also announced a number of agreements on foreign policy issues, including support for nuclear disarmament and for U.S. efforts to keep Persian Gulf sea lanes open.