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SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS ON BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Right Honourable Joe Clark, today strongly condemned the unprecedented series of cross border attacks carried out by South Africa on May 19 against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, all fellow Commonwealth members.

Mr. Clark affirmed Canada's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states which had been attacked and called upon the South African Government to refrain from further acts of aggression against its neighbours. He expressed deep regret that the South African Government had chosen to take violent action at the very time that the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons was in the region to promote peaceful change through a process of political dialogue. These circumstances will have to be taken into account by all countries in assessing South Africa's irresponsible attacks and their response to them. They will also have to be taken into account when Canada and other Commonwealth countries meet later this year to assess the progress made in dismantling apartheid and to consider the report of the Group of Eminent Persons.

Mr. Clark directed that the Canadian Government's outrage at this inexplicable and arbitrary act of violence be conveyed to the South African Government. He extended sympathy to the Governments of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and condolences to those who had suffered from these raids.