Minister for International Trade



Communiqué

Ministre du Commerce extérieur

No. 198

September 14, 1991

COMMONWEALTH TO LIFT PEOPLE SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA, SETS TERMS FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today in New Delhi that the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa had recommended to Heads of Government that Commonwealth "people-to-people" sanctions now be lifted, and clarified conditions for the lifting of economic and sporting sanctions.

When ratified by Heads of Government in Harare in mid-October, this decision will allow Canada and other Commonwealth members to issue visas in South Africa, promote tourism, enter into air links and related sales agreements, and have full cultural and scientific contacts.

Making public the Concluding Statement of the Committee (annexed), which she chairs, Mrs. McDougall said the Committee emerged from its deliberations "with a view that reflects with some sensitivity the many challenges and opportunities offered by a South Africa in transition, and also an approach that both gives credit where it is due and sustains the pressure for further change."

The Committee agreed that Commonwealth trade and investment sanctions should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms had been agreed in South Africa which would enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations. Financial sanctions should be maintained until a new democratic constitution is agreed.