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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SHOCKED BY POLICE VIOLENCE IN WAKE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed outrage at police violence in the wake of yesterday's South African elections and the hope that the new government would quickly undertake fundamental change.

"I was shocked by reports this morning that over twenty people have been killed and hundreds injured as a result of a brutal and manifestly excessive police response to protests in the Cape area. I have asked the Canadian Ambassador in Pretoria to lodge a strong protest to the South African Government, and urge that maximum restraint be exercised.

The most glaring fact about the elections was that blacks, who make up the vast majority of the population, were excluded. They have responded peacefully but resolutely. The Mass Democratic Movement has staged a broad-based defiance campaign, which included the recent massive stay-away.

These non-violent acts of defiance will undoubtedly continue, since the election has not eased in any way the frustrations of the black majority. I will continue to press the South African Government to respond, not with police violence, but with negotiations and fundamental change.

South Africa's new government should heed the signals, not only from its white constituency but also from the black majority, and move quickly to dismantle apartheid and enter into meaningful negotiations with black leaders towards the establishment of non-racial representative government. In the meantime, Canada will continue its program of pressure on the South African Government until there is evidence of fundamental change."

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada