



No. 113

May 14, 1993

McDOUGALL TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall will be in South Africa May 18 to 21 for talks with key leaders, including President F.W. de Klerk, African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela and Foreign Minister Pik Botha. She will also meet with Justice Richard Goldstone, and others involved with the National Peace Accord, and with representatives of international observer teams.

"As head of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, I am pleased by the significant progress made toward ending apartheid in South Africa and by the leading role that Canada has played in this development," said Mrs. McDougall. "During this visit, I will reaffirm Canada's commitment to the achievement of a multiracial and fully democratic government in South Africa. I will also urge all leaders to do everything they can to end the violence, which continues to pose a danger to negotiations and to the implementation of a multiparty agreement."

The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa (CFMSA) has co-ordinated the Commonwealth's action on South Africa since 1987. In October 1991, on the recommendation of the CFMSA, the Commonwealth Heads of Government agreed that economic (trade and investment) sanctions would be lifted when multiparty agreement is reached on appropriate transitional mechanisms in South Africa. Commonwealth financial sanctions would be lifted upon agreement on a new democratic constitution or earlier, if requested by an all-party conference or an interim government.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874