



REF

communiqué

No: 91
 No.: 92

DIFFUSION:
 RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 OCTOBER 25, 1977

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1977

SOUTH AFRICA

In the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and on his instructions, the Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs today called in the Ambassador of South Africa and made the following comments to him:

- a) The Canadian Government has noted with concern the developments which have taken place in South Africa in recent days, involving widespread arrests, bannings and the closing of newspapers.
- b) It is evident that the South African Government is attempting to silence voices of dissent to the policies of apartheid.
- c) For 30 years successive Canadian Governments have condemned these policies as being a denial of fundamental human rights.
- d) Moreover, Canada has consistently believed that these policies of apartheid and their effects are quite properly matters of international concern.
- e) The Canadian Government considers that, in the attempt to silence such legitimate dissent, the South African Government appears to be employing tactics which will produce more bitterness, more violence and much more insecurity.
- f) Therefore, the Canadian Government urges the Government of South Africa, before it is too late, to pay heed to these voices of dissent. South Africa will only find real security when greater social justice is given to the majority of the people of that country.

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