

AW033

R KIOIKCZCZYRZYR

561

PM-BOTHA-COMMONWEALTH; 0369
WITH CANBERRA PM-COMMONWEALTH-AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA HAS URGED COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS TO REJECT A REPORT WHICH SAYS SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA ARE EFFECTIVE AND HAVE IN SOME CASES HELPED CREATE JOBS FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS.

IN A LETTER TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JOE CLARK; CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH IS MEETING IN CANBERRA; AUSTRALIA; BOTHA SAID RECENT "AUTHORITATIVE AND INDEPENDENT" SURVEYS SHOWED THE MAJORITY OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS REJECTED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT.

IN THE LETTER; MADE PUBLIC IN JOHANNESBURG TODAY; BOTHA SAID HE HOPES THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE WOULD "IN FACT REDEDICATE ITSELF" TO PROMOTING A CLIMATE CONDUCTIVE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

(IN CANBERRA; THE EIGHT-MEMBER COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE AGREED TODAY TO ACCEPT FOR CONSIDERATION RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE INDEPENDENT REPORT WHICH CALLS FOR SWIFT NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE WHITE-MINORITY GOVERNMENT TO END ITS APARTHEID RACIAL SEPARATION POLICIES.

(CLARK SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT AND IT WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER WHEN IT IS CONVEYED TO THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR; MALAYSIA; IN OCTOBER.)

BOTHA SAID IN HIS LETTER THAT SOUTH AFRICA NEEDS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS; AND ASKED WHETHER HE COULD COUNT ON A RECIPROCAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM CLARK AND HIS COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES.

HE ADDED HE HAD LEARNED WITH "SOME CONCERN" THAT CLARK CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THERE IS A CASE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WITH RESPECT TO REGIONAL STABILITY.

HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA'S TRACK RECORD ON THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS IN PRETORIA-ADMINISTERED NAMIBIA TESTIFIED TO ITS DETERMINATION TO BRING PEACE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA; INCLUDING ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

SOUTH AFRICA WISHES TO ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS SETTING THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE REGION SHOULD MOVE IF IT IS TO ESCAPE THE MISERIES OF HUNGER AND DISEASE THAT ARE THREATENED BY INACTION; HE ADDED.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR "RECRIMINATIONS AND MINDLESS VENDETTAS;" SAID BOTHA. TO BRAND SOUTH AFRICA AS THE VILLAIN DOES NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SUCH THINKING IS INDICATIVE OF AN APPROACH WHICH IS COMPLETELY OUT OF STEP WITH CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS."

08-08-89 1023ED

204