

Tougher measures approved



HENDRIK de KLERK
Doesn't want sanctions



JOE CLARK
Force end to apartheid

CANBERRA, Australia (CP) — Eight Commonwealth foreign ministers agreed yesterday to ask banks to put pressure on South Africa by imposing tough repayment terms on the billions of dollars the country owes them.

MINISTERS PRESSURE S. AFRICA

The ministers said banks should exert as much pressure as possible without making South Africa default on its loans. The proposals were made in light of South Africa's need to reschedule its foreign debt by June 1990.

The Commonwealth committee of foreign ministers on southern Africa discussed the possible measures as part of an attempt to force Pretoria to end apartheid.

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, chairman of the meeting, said the Commonwealth will propose meetings with bank officials involved in rescheduling the debt.

"The world knows that the rescheduling question is urgent," Clark said. "We think that it's possible for some of our people to get in touch with banks in the United States and Europe so that perhaps we can have some effect on these financial links."

The ministers also said banks should impose the highest possible interest rates and not allow South Africa to extend debt repayment over 10 years.

The ministers also agreed to consider an independent report that suggests imposing more sanctions against South Africa.

Speaking as Canada's representative, Clark said he could not foresee new Canadian trade sanctions "in the short term" against South Africa.

But he also said "it's absolutely essential to keep sanctions in place until real reform happens."

Aside from Clark, the foreign ministers of Australia, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are attending the three-day meeting that ends today.