



communiqué

N°:
No.: No. 077

April 27, 1987.

STATEMENT ON RAID BY SOUTH AFRICA ON ZAMBIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today strongly condemned the South African raid against Zambia. According to initial reports the attack on two targets in the town of Livingstone was mounted from illegally occupied Namibia, 60 kilometers away. It seems that four people were killed and one other injured in the raid. This attack, the second in less than a year, once again demonstrated South Africa's callous disregard for the sovereignty and integrity of neighbouring states and provides further evidence of the violent nature of apartheid.

On April 15th the Canadian Ambassador to South Africa expressed our concern that recent statements by members of the South African government threatening action against neighbouring states heightened tensions in the region. Pretoria has not provided any evidence that attacks by the ANC (African National Congress) from Zambia were being planned to disrupt the South African elections.

Mr. Clark directed that Canadian government condemnation of this unprovoked act of violence be conveyed to the South African government in the strongest terms. He extended sympathy to the government of Zambia and condolences to the family of the victims of the attack.

The Canadian government has repeatedly called for the initiation of a process of political dialogue with a view to dismantling apartheid and establishing non-racial representative government. Aggressive raids into neighbouring states only serve to provoke further violence in the region and put at risk hopes for a negotiated and peaceful solution in South Africa.