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CANADA TIGHTENS BAN ON SPORTING CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Ottawa -- The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Jean Charest, Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, today announced a strengthened Government policy on Sporting Contacts between Canada and South Africa.

Effective immediately, the policy is extended to include all sporting contacts between Canadians and South Africans whether they take place in Canada, in South Africa or in a third country. Features of the policy are:

- In addition to amateur representative team and individual sports, the revised policy now applies to individual sport persons, including professionals;
- Henceforth Canadian sport organizations are expected to decline invitations to, withdraw from or protest events in third countries in which South Africans are participating and to discourage their members from participating in such events;
- Canadian sport organizations are requested to suspend athletes and officials under their purview who participate in sport events in South Africa and to press their international federation to take similar action;
- Observance of the Government's policy by Canadian sport organizations will henceforth be taken into account in funding decisions;
- The Canadian Government will take action designed to strengthen and extend the international sport boycott of South Africa by working through diplomatic and intergovernmental channels.

The policy takes the Government as far as it can go within the limits of Canadian and international law. "We are exercising the full extent of our authority," said Mr. Clark.

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"The Government alone cannot bring about a total ban on Canada-South Africa sport contacts. It requires the full co-operation of Canadian sport organizations and individual athletes and officials," said Minister Charest. "The authority to stop athletes from competing with South Africans lies with the sport organizations. Pressure must be increased to achieve an expulsion of South Africa from all international sport organizations."

In addition, Canada is providing financial support for a new two-track approach, initiated by leading international anti-apartheid in sport organizations, which features tightening the ban on sporting contacts with South Africa while seeking ways to encourage the development of non-racial sport in South Africa. "The two-track plan is an important initiative," said Mr. Clark. "While maintaining the sport boycott, we will be working with anti-apartheid organizations as well as like-minded governments to explore ways of helping to promote dialogue and break down racial barriers within South African sport and, by extension, in South Africa as a whole."

The Canadian Government first placed restrictions on Canada-South Africa sport relations in 1972. Since then, the vast majority of sporting contacts between Canadians and South Africans have been eliminated. In July 1988, the Government announced that individuals travelling on South African passports and seeking entry into Canada to participate in a sport event would be denied visas.

"The sport boycott works. It is one of the oldest and most effective sanctions against apartheid," Minister Clark noted.

Canada's policy on sporting contacts with South Africa is one of a series of measures which the Government has introduced to encourage a peaceful end to apartheid.

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