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CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY REGARDING
SPORTING CONTACTS BETWEEN CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA

In conjunction with other measures announced by the Government to demonstrate opposition to apartheid and support for peaceful change, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, the Honourable Otto Jelinek, reaffirmed Canada's support for the Commonwealth policy limiting sporting contacts with South Africa. To assist Canadian sporting associations with the interpretation of this policy, the two ministers are issuing the attached guidelines.

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Canadian Government Policy Regarding Sporting
Contacts Between Canada and South Africa

This statement is intended to clarify Canada's policy regarding sporting contacts between Canadian and South African sportspeople in the following circumstances:

- 1) in Canada
- 2) in South Africa
- 3) in competition in third countries.

It is for the guidance of Canadian sport governing bodies and other Canadian organizations involved in international sport, and supersedes all previous statements of Federal policy on the subject.

The Background

The policy and practice of apartheid (racial separatism) in South Africa has long been considered unacceptable by the international community. Much pressure has been brought to bear on South Africa to change its racial policies and this has led to the virtual isolation of South Africa in many areas of international activity - particularly in the field of sports.

The International Olympic Committee has expelled South Africa from Olympic competition. The United Nations has adopted a Declaration against apartheid in sport. The members of the Commonwealth, at their Heads of Government meeting in 1977, agreed upon the Gleneagles Declaration, which pledged them to discourage by all practical means sporting contacts between their citizens and South Africans. In 1982, the Commonwealth Games Federation adopted a Code of Conduct for its member Associations, which is designed to give specific meaning and force to the general commitment made by Commonwealth countries at Gleneagles.

Sport, in general, is a highly regarded and very important element in the way of life of the white minority population that controls South Africa. The denial of world class competition and the international ostracism in sport is keenly felt there. This has had some effect and has resulted in a relaxation of the enforcement of racial legislation in sports activities.

Canada's Policy

Canada recognizes that some steps have been taken in recent years to reduce racial discrimination in South African sport.

However, the continued practice of apartheid in sport -- as well as in other areas of life -- remains a matter of serious concern. It is Canada's view that further progress toward peaceful change in South Africa requires continued international pressure, in sport as in other areas.

It is, therefore, Canadian policy to adopt practical and effective measures to discourage contact between athletes representing Canada and those representing South Africa, and, consistent with this approach, to encourage Canadian sport governing bodies to seek the removal of South Africa from the International Federation to which they are affiliated.

Canadian policy is not aimed at individual amateurs or professionals of South African origin or citizenship who may or may not agree with apartheid, but at organized, nationally-representative South African sport. Canada's present policy is based on our obligations under the Gleneagles Declaration of 1977, and reflects the major provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Commonwealth Games Federation in September 1982.

The Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to sporting contacts with South Africa:

1) Sporting Events, Competitions or Meetings in Canada

Entry visas will be denied to citizens of South Africa who wish to enter Canada to participate in sporting competitions, meetings or congresses as representatives of the South African Government or one of its

agencies, or as representatives of South African sport governing bodies or any of their components or affiliated organizations. The criteria by which judgements will be made are (a) whether the sports people involved are travelling on South African passports, and (b) whether the event is organized on the basis of national representation (i.e. if those participating do so as representatives of South Africa or of a South African national sport governing body or component or affiliate thereof).

2) Sporting Events, Competitions or Meetings in South Africa

No Federal support, either financial or moral, shall be extended to any Canadian team or individual normally recognized by, or affiliated with, a Canadian sport governing body whose purpose is to travel to South Africa for sports competitions, meetings or congresses.

In the case of individuals who travel to South Africa on their own resources to participate in competitions or meetings or to conduct sporting affairs (such as coaching duties, clinics or seminars) with a South African sport governing body, the Government expects that the national sport governing body concerned will take appropriate steps to discourage such travel, or having failed to discourage it, will take appropriate measures vis-à-vis the individuals or teams or clubs concerned. This may be (for example) suspension from international competition for an appropriate period of time. Should the national sport governing body involved not take such measures, the Government may, by the decision of the Minister responsible for sport, suspend financial assistance to the national sport governing body in whole or in part.

3) Events in Third Countries in which South Africa is participating

Ideally, the Government would prefer that no contact take place between nationally-representative Canadian and South African teams in third countries. However, it is recognized that this may not always be possible, or may be possible only at disproportionate penalty to the Canadian side. Therefore the following guidelines will apply to situations involving potential contacts in third countries.

If South African participation is known at the time that a Canadian team is invited to participate in the event, the organizing committee is to be informed that Canada will not participate as long as South Africans are also to do so.

If South African participation becomes known after an invitation has been accepted, but before the Canadian team departs Canada for the event, the organizing committee is to be informed that Canada will withdraw from the event if South Africa participates. If this has no effect, then the team must withdraw from the event, but may use any Government funds advanced for the event for other approved purposes.

In both these cases, the Government will undertake to explain to the Government of the host country through diplomatic channels the reason why Canada cannot compete in the event in question.

If a Canadian team in transit to or arriving at an event finds a South African team in presence and prepared to compete, the Canadian team may compete under formal protest to the organizing committee and international federation. This protest must be followed by a motion for the expulsion of South Africa from the federation at the next congress or general assembly of the federation.