

# News Release

# Communiqué

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



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CLARK ANNOUNCES MEETING WITH NELSON MANDELA  
AND LEADERS OF THE FRONT LINE STATES IN LUSAKA  
AND VISIT TO NAMIBIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced plans to visit Lusaka, Zambia, February 26-28, 1990, to meet with Nelson Mandela. The trip is in response to an invitation from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to hold discussions with Mr. Mandela and leaders of the Front Line States (FLS) on developments now unfolding in South Africa.

Mr. Clark will then travel to Windhoek, Namibia, on March 1, 1990, where he will have talks with President-elect Sam Nujoma and other officials on the eve of Namibian independence on March 21.

"I welcome most heartily this early opportunity for my first meeting with Nelson Mandela", stated the Minister. "It is clear that Mr. Mandela is not only a symbol of hope for his people, but also a person possessing remarkable qualities of statesmanship, vision and fortitude - qualities which will be crucial in the challenging days ahead." This will be Mr. Mandela's first trip outside of South Africa since his release from prison on February 11 of this year.

While in Lusaka, Mr. Clark will also meet with leaders of the FLS and the African National Congress (ANC). "I am looking forward to speaking with these key actors about the important changes which are finally beginning to take place in South Africa", he noted.

"As Chairman of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, I believe that next week's meetings with Mr. Mandela, the ANC, and the FLS can only assist the Commonwealth in pursuing its leadership role in trying to end apartheid in South Africa."

In Namibia on March 1, Mr. Clark will meet with the President-elect and several ministers-designate to discuss various aspects of the Canada-Namibia relationship including our sincere wish to welcome an independent Namibia to the Commonwealth before too long.

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Canada played a leading role in negotiating and implementing Namibia's independence process, both directly and through the United Nations. "Namibia's experience stands as a persuasive demonstration to South Africans of how fundamental political change can be achieved through a peaceful, negotiated and democratic process", stated Mr. Clark.

To assist the independence process, during the past year, Canada provided over 250 military and police personnel to the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), over 60 election supervisors and technical experts as well as 4,000 ballot boxes to support the election of the Constituent Assembly and over Cdn \$3.5 million in aid for development and refugee repatriation. Namibia's Constituent Assembly recently adopted an exemplary constitution which provides for effective human rights guarantees and a multi-party democracy.