



communiqué

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IMPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced that the government was implementing, effective October 1, 1986, the decision to ban the importation of agricultural products, uranium, coal, iron and steel from South Africa.

Mr. Clark indicated that this action follows up the commitment made by the Prime Minister at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Review Meeting, held in London, August 3-5, 1986. On that occasion Commonwealth Leaders recognized the lack of concrete progress on the part of South Africa to dismantle apartheid and to establish a non-racial and representative government. They agreed that the adoption of substantial economic measures against South Africa was "a moral and political imperative to which a positive response can no longer be deferred". They agreed, in this light, to adopt a further series of measures and commend them to the rest of the Commonwealth and the wider international community for urgent adoption and implementation.

The Minister mentioned that, pursuant to the provisions of the Export and Import Permits Act, arrangements have been made to place agricultural products, uranium, coal, iron and steel of South African origin on the Import Control List. Accordingly, Canadian importers wishing to import these goods will be required to obtain an import permit as a condition to entry. Mr. Clark noted that permits will not normally be granted.

The Minister pointed out that this decision will affect, on the basis of 1985 shipments, some \$87.5 million worth of Canadian imports from South Africa. Mr. Clark recognizes that some Canadian establishments, which relied on South African imports for the bulk of their business, will be substantially affected, particularly in the short-term, as they seek to find alternative sources of supply. It is possible, the Minister noted, that some companies might have to resort to short-term layoffs, while some others might incur losses in profitability.

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To alleviate some of this hardship, Mr. Clark mentioned that provisions have been made to allow entry to those goods which, on October 1, 1986, are in transit. Additionally, arrangements are being made to allow, until the end of the year, the entry for goods which are covered by a binding contractual commitment entered into prior to August 5, 1986.

The Minister, in making the announcement, welcomed last week's decision by the European Economic Community and Japan to impose sanctions against South Africa. "It is our hope", the Minister said, "that these measures will become part of a wider programme of international action and spur authorities in Pretoria to initiate, in the context of a suspension of violence on all sides, a process of dialogue across lines of colour, politics and religion, with a view to establishing a non-racial and representative government, in a united and non-fragmented South Africa."

For more information:

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