

News Release

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THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
HARARE, FEBRUARY 6-8, 1989

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that he will chair the third meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on February 6-8, 1989.

The Commonwealth Committee was created by the Vancouver Heads of Government Meeting in October 1987 to provide high level impetus and guidance to further Commonwealth objectives on South Africa. It comprises the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and is chaired by Canada. The Committee held its first meeting in Lusaka in February 1988, and its second meeting in Toronto in August of 1988.

Ministers will continue to give importance to the widening, tightening and intensifying of Commonwealth sanctions including follow-up to their decisions in Toronto, and will examine, in particular, possible measures to strengthen the arms embargo against South Africa. Commonwealth efforts to reach into South Africa, including initiatives to counteract South African censorship and propaganda will be reviewed.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Commonwealth Heads of Government in Vancouver agreed that "the capacity of South Africa's neighbours to resist Pretoria's policy of destabilization and destruction must be strengthened" and committed themselves to continuing to work towards the ending of apartheid and to helping the region enhance security and advance the cause of freedom and independence. Consequently, the Committee has agreed that as was the case in previous CFM meetings, a particular issue will have a prominent place on the agenda. Given the location of this meeting and the special circumstances of the FLS, the Committee has accepted the proposal that destabilization be the theme of the Harare meeting.

Ministers will discuss Commonwealth assistance to the states in the region including development assistance and efforts to promote trade and investment with and among Southern African nations. Namibia, including developments related to the implementation of the UN Namibian settlement plan, will also be an important item for discussion.