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CANADA MAKES REPRESENTATIONS ON "SHARPEVILLE SIX"
AND RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN MEASURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Canadian Ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Ronald MacLean, has returned to Capetown to express directly to the Government of South Africa Canada's deep concern over recent South African Government actions. Earlier today Canada made representations on this jointly with the Governments of Australia, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Canada attaches importance to working with other like-minded countries in the battle against apartheid.

The five Governments participating in the representations reiterated the appeal for clemency for the "Sharpeville Six" made earlier by Prime Minister Mulroney and other world leaders.

The five countries expressed their collective opposition to proposed legislation that would put inappropriate conditions and restrictions on financial assistance to South Africans from abroad. They also expressed their serious concern about the drastic additional restrictions placed on political activities of groups and individuals committed to peaceful opposition to apartheid.

The Government of Canada is deeply concerned that these South African Government measures both constitute serious additional violations of the fundamental rights of South Africans and make more distant prospects for negotiations leading towards non-racial, representative government.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Mr. Clark also expressed relief at the court decision in South Africa today to grant a one month stay of execution for the "Sharpeville Six" to provide time for further legal considerations.

Mr. Clark hopes that whatever the outcome of the further legal processes the "Sharpeville Six" will not be executed.