



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that, as of November 7, 1986, the Canadian Embassy in Pretoria would no longer issue visas to applicants wishing to visit Canada.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Review Meeting in London, 3-5 August, a number of Commonwealth leaders, including the Prime Minister of Canada, met to consider the report of the Group of Eminent Persons (EPG), established as a result of the Heads of Government Meeting in Nassau in October 1985. The Commonwealth Accord, issued at the end of the Nassau meeting, expressed the view "that apartheid must be dismantled now if a greater tragedy is to be averted and that concerted pressure must be brought to bear to achieve that end."

After reviewing the EPG report, the Heads of Governments concluded that "there has not been the adequate concrete progress that we looked for" in South Africa. Acknowledging that "the Commonwealth cannot stand by and allow the cycle of violence to spiral, but must take effective concerted action", Canada and five other countries agreed on a number of measures against South Africa and commended them to the rest of the Commonwealth and the international community generally.

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One of these measures is the following:

"the withdrawal of all consular facilities in South Africa except for our own nationals and nationals of third countries to whom we render consular services".

Accordingly, prospective visitors visa applicants in South Africa (including students and temporary workers), will no longer be able to obtain visas at the Embassy in Pretoria. Persons wishing to visit Canada will have to apply for visas to other Canadian missions abroad.

South Africans wishing to establish permanent residence in Canada will continue to have the services of our Embassy in Pretoria available to them. Consular assistance normally extended by the Embassy to Canadians visiting South Africa will continue to be available.