

GRS 230

UNCLASSIFIED

FM OTTAWA

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 502

OF 051306Z SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY PRETORIA, NYMIS, BONN, PARIS, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON

CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA

1. DURING A TELEVISION INTERVIEW TO MARK HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE, PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY WAS QUESTIONED ON SOUTH AFRICA. HE REAFFIRMED THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOUND THE APARTHEID POLICY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. HE ADDED: 'WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PUTTING TOGETHER SOMETHING WE HOPE WILL BE HELPFUL. THE QUESTION ARISES, HOW DO YOU DISMANTLE APARTHEID OR PERSUADE PEOPLE IN A VIGOROUS WAY TO DISMANTLE APARTHEID WITHOUT CRIPPLING ECONOMICALLY THE BLACKS AND THE COLOURED AND THE INDIANS WHO VERY MUCH NEED OUR HELP'.

2. MULRONEY SAID THAT HIS EARLIER SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS (MY TLENO 480) WAS A HASTY PERSONAL REACTION TO AN ABHORRENT SITUATION AND DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE PRAISED AND ENDORSED MR CLARK'S CONSISTENTLY MODERATE AND MATURE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ADDED THAT 'WE WILL HAVE TO REFLECT UPON OTHER OPTIONS BECAUSE THERE ARE LOUD VOICES NOW COMING TO US FROM SOUTH AFRICA THAT SAY THESE POLICIES (IE SANCTIONS) MAY VERY WELL CRIPPLE US, THE PEOPLE YOU ARE TRYING TO HELP'.

DAY

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

SOUTHERN AFRICA
STANDARD(PALACE)
S AF D
OADS

ECDs
SOVIET D

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
SOUTHERN AFRICA

UND
NAD

MR J R J JOHNSON
CABINET OFFICE