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MEDIA RELEASE

UNION BAN ON TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, and Minister for Overseas Trade, The Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, M.P.

I share the dismay of all Australians at the tragic events in South Africa.

But I do not think that a trade ban will affect the situation in South Africa, or persuade South Africa to change its policies.

It will certainly affect Australia, which in the last full financial year exported to South Africa goods worth nearly \$100 million, and imported goods worth \$44 million. As 80% of our exports to South Africa consist of manufactured goods, there will be some employment implications in the ban.

Australia is completely opposed to the system of apartheid, and will support appropriate measures in the United Nations and elsewhere to end racial discrimination wherever it exists.

The Government believes no purpose is served by not maintaining diplomatic and economic relations with countries with social or political systems which do not meet our standards.

As far as trade with South Africa is concerned, the Liberal-National Country Party Government has maintained the general principles established by the previous Government in 1973 -- that is, that normal economic relations be permitted to continue without avoidable official assistance.

Canberra

23 June 1976