



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

21 JANUARY 1983

WEST INDIAN CRICKETERS' TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Australian Government deplores as a clear breach of the Gleneagles Agreement the current tour of South Africa by an unofficial team of West Indian cricketers. I entirely agree with the recent statements by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Ramphal, and by Commonwealth West Indian Governments and cricketing authorities, who have made it clear that the individuals on the team will be debarred from representing their countries in international and national cricket in the future.

The South African sporting authorities sought, through offering considerable financial inducements to the individuals concerned, to defy the international ban on sporting contacts with South Africa while apartheid persists in that country. The strength of international condemnation of this unofficial tour, including in Australia, demonstrates that they did not succeed.

Because of the deliberate and blatant nature of this particular attempt to breach the Gleneagles Agreement and the understandings reached at the Melbourne Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, the people involved in this particular tour will not be given visas again to visit Australia.

I believe that these views are widely shared by Australians. The Government is grateful for the support its policy on sporting contacts with South Africa has received from Australian sporting organisations.

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