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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

11 APRIL 1984

The attached letter was sent to the Opposition Leader today.



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

10 APR 1984

The Hon. A.S. Peacock, M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

Dear Mr Peacock,

Thank you for your letter of 6 April, concerning the proposed visit of three South African politicians to Australia.

I note that you have declined to give the written assurance, which I requested, that the visit would not be exploited by the politicians concerned to promote apartheid doctrine and policies. I note also that Mr Durr, a Member of the South African Government Party, who has apparently been the spokesman for the South Africans involved in this exercise, is reported as having similarly declined to give such an assurance.

These developments confirm the Government's view that the principal purpose of the visit, as originally conceived by the South African Embassy, was to promote apartheid. In such circumstances, the Government will not be able to grant entry visas.

In my letter of 5 April I outlined in detail my Government's policy of not granting visas to South African official representatives who seek to come to Australia to promote apartheid. Mr Durr has since been quoted as claiming that "the conception of so-called apartheid, as it is apparently perceived by the Australian Government, is a conception that is as dead as a dodo".

You may be aware of the report on the weekend of the detention for three years of two South African children under five years of age, while their racial identity was determined. Such horrifying reports confirm only too clearly that the obscenity of apartheid remains the policy and practice of the South African Government.

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I attach South African Government statistics received from the Australian Embassy in Pretoria, which confirm in appalling detail the basis of the Australian Government's policy and give the lie to Mr Durr and other apologists for apartheid.

In your letter, you state that your own record in opposing apartheid is unimpeachable. It is certainly true that the Fraser Government had a very good record on Southern African issues. I am disappointed that the Coalition Parties appear to be walking away from it under your leadership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J.L. Hawke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

R.J.L. Hawke

SOUTH AFRICA : APARTHEID STATISTICS

- (1) 169 people were prosecuted in 1983 under Section 16 of the Immorality Act, which prohibits sexual relations between members of different racial groups. The prosecutions resulted in 126 convictions, of which 86 were in the Transvaal, and 27 people are still awaiting trial;
- (2) during 1983, 142,067 blacks were convicted of "pass law" offences relating to reference books and influx control in the nine main urban centres of South Africa. The highest number of convictions was on the East Rand (55,454) and in Johannesburg (37,562);
- (3) during 1983, 911 coloured, 407 Indian families and 46 white families were moved from their homes under the terms of the Group Areas Act. Most of the removals were in the Western Cape;
- (4) a total of 104,607 blacks were arrested for trespass during 1983. This compares with the figures for coloureds 13,558, whites 1,174 and Indians 601;
- (5) in 1983, 10,855 black people were prosecuted under the curfew regulations;
- (6) in the field of education, in 1982/83 the State spent R1,385 on each white school child, R593 for a coloured child, R871 for Indians, and R192 for black school children;
- (7) under the Coloured Labour Reference legislation operations in the Western Cape, a total of 2,238 black workers were refused employment in the Western Cape during 1983 by the Department of Manpower.