



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The Government is disappointed that the proposed rebel cricket tour of South Africa appears likely to proceed.

On the other hand, it welcomes the moves which have been made by the Australian Cricket Board in an effort to deter future rebel tours of South Africa.

On behalf of the Government, I reiterate our repudiation of apartheid, our support for the Gleneagles Agreement and our opposition to this proposed tour.

Two important developments have occurred since news of the proposed tour first emerged. First, the cancellation of the tour by the All Black Rugby Union team has further isolated South Africa in international sport. Second, the imposition of the state of emergency in South Africa has underlined the racial injustice of the apartheid system and the repressive ruthlessness of its practitioners.

The growing world reaction to the apartheid policies and practices of South Africa has for instance been reflected in recent resolutions of the United Nations and the United States Senate and House of Representatives, calling for economic sanctions.

While recognising that it is the individual right of Australian cricketers to decide whether they will tour South Africa, I nevertheless ask those who have become involved to think of the consequences of such a tour for Australia's and their own reputations, for Australia's international relations, including its international sporting contacts, and, above all, for the oppressed non-white people of South Africa.

I express the earnest hope that, having reflected deeply on the important issues of racial equality and justice which are involved, they will reconsider their decisions.
