



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

28 MAY 1986

Cabinet today considered the implications of the recent South African raids on Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Federal Government condemns the South African actions in the strongest terms. It is impossible to justify such arrogant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Africa's neighbouring states. The situation in southern Africa demands an end to apartheid and a suspension of violence on all sides.

The attacks have severely bruised the initiative taken through the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group to facilitate dialogue between black and white South Africans. It would be a tragedy if this widely commended attempt to negotiate a settlement were to founder because of South Africa's actions.

The Australian Government is eagerly awaiting the Eminent Persons Group's further assessment of its position. The Group is to meet in London in early June. The Group is expecting a response from the South African Government by that time to proposals which it has advanced.

The Group is looking forward also to receiving views from the African National Congress.

If as a result of South African intransigence the Eminent Persons Group were indeed shown to fail, Australia would hold the South African Government responsible.

In that event the Australian Government will move quickly to accelerate its consideration of further possible economic measures against South Africa.

These would necessarily include the list of measures identified in the so-called second tranche of the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa agreed at Nassau in October 1985.