

SANCTIONS MUST BE TIGHTENED, SAYS MAHATHIR

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By Wong Chun Wai

LUSAKA, Wed. — Commonwealth countries will continue to call on the international community to impose sanctions on South Africa until apartheid has been dismantled, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Sanctions must not only continue but must also be tightened," the Prime Minister said after chairing a meeting between Commonwealth leaders and African Nationalist Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

However, Dr Mahathir said the leaders agreed that no new form of sanctions should be applied until the UN General Assembly, which would meet in July, gave its stand on the situation in South Africa.

He said the general assembly was expected to give the findings of its review on "Pretoria's promise" to reform the system.

He also said that Mr Mandela briefed them on developments in South Africa and expressed con-

cern that the 15,000 exiles in Lusaka had not been guaranteed their safety if the ANC carried out a repatriation.

According to Dr Mahathir, Mr Mandela said that although the ANC was the most active and largest anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, there was no unity among the various tribal factions.

Dr Mahathir said: "Mr Mandela conveyed his appreciation to Malaysia for its role in helping the movement and praised the country for having a consistent anti-apartheid policy since the days of Tunku Abdul Rahman."

He said Malaysia's participation in this summit was a rare honour and that it reflected the country's standing in the international community.

He said Mr Mandela told the leaders that the ANC needed funds for its activities.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was prepared to provide technical assistance to the ANC.

He said Mr Mandela

told the leaders that he received conflicting reports of what had taken place during the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting last October.

"He received inaccurate reports that there was no common agreement on our stand against the Pretoria regime."

Dr Mahathir said that outgoing Commonwealth secretary-general Sir Shridath Ramphal pointed out that the stand of Commonwealth members was solid and gave Mr Mandela a copy of the Kuala Lumpur declaration.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir called on Mr Mandela and met his wife, Winnie, and two daughters. The Prime Minister presented him with a silver keris.

Leaders who attended the summit issued a communique saying that they welcomed the unconditional release of Mr Mandela and the lifting of the ban on the ANC and other political organisations.

However, they asked the South African Government to end the state

of emergency, remove all troops from townships, cease all political trials and political executions.

The leaders regretted Britain's move to lift the sanction on industrial investments and tourist traffic in South Africa.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir met Namibian Mines and Energy Minister-designate Toivo Y Tolvo for talks on matters of bilateral interest.

They discussed how Malaysia could help provide training facilities and technical assistance to Namibia, said Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Haji Majid Mohamed.

He said Mr Tolvo sought help to train Namibians to become technicians, administrators, geologists and engineers.

Datuk Majid said Dr Mahathir invited Namibians to visit Malaysia and find out for themselves what areas of assistance Malaysia could help.

He said the Commonwealth was drawing up assistance programmes for Namibia.

Dr. M - overseas trips.