

Sanctions to go on, says Dr M

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From K. Bala

LUSAKA, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Commonwealth will continue with its sanctions, including tightening them, against the South African regime.

The Prime Minister said these tough financial and trade sanctions would continue until there were signs that Pretoria would abolish its apartheid policy.

The decision was reached during the meeting between a group of Commonwealth members and the recently released black leader Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress. Dr Mahathir chaired the meeting at the State House today.

Dr Mahathir was invited by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to chair the meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

The frontline States of southern Africa — Zambia (Mr Kaunda), Zimbabwe (President Robert Mugabe), Tanzania, Botswana, and Mozambique — Canada (External Minister Joe Clark) and outgoing Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal represented the Commonwealth.

Today's decision was in line with the decision of Mr Mandela, who has repeatedly said since his release on Feb 11 that the international community should not reduce sanctions.

"We decided that the sanctions should continue

and in fact be tightened," he told Malaysian newsmen after the meeting.

Mr Mandela was accompanied by ANC leader Walter Sisulu.

The meeting was called to listen to Mr Mandela since his release after 27 years in jail.

The Commonwealth wanted to hear from Mr Mandela, 71, the requirement of the ANC in his struggle against Pretoria.

Dr Mahathir said: "This will enable the Commonwealth to understand the situation better and take the necessary action."

Dr Mahathir said Mr Mandela inquired into the conflicting reports of deci-

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ANC's terms are met:
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sions made on South Africa during the Kuala Lumpur CHOGM last October.

Mr Mandela said that he had heard conflicting reports, one of which said that the Commonwealth did not make a firm decision against South Africa and left it to individual members to pursue their own course of action.

Dr Mahathir said Sir Shridath had told Mr Mandela that all 48 members present were for tightening sanctions with the exception of Britain.

On financial aid to the ANC, the Prime Minister said Malaysia did not make any promises but would provide assistance within its capacity.

The Prime Minister left for home later this afternoon.