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## 'Stern action' planned against S. Africa march

From Sun-Times Wires

**JOHANNESBURG—** The South African government yesterday continued its roundup of anti-apartheid leaders and warned of "stern action" against an illegal march called for Wednesday to protest imprisonment of black activist Nelson R. Mandela.

The man who called for the march, the Rev. Allan Boesak, surfaced after dropping from sight Friday and told reporters at his home near Cape Town that he had disappeared briefly "to spend time with my family."

Police said 27 anti-apartheid leaders were among 75 people arrested in the 24-hour period ending last night. Among the 27 were Dr. Farouk Meer, acting president of the United Democratic Front, and the Rev. Syd Lockett, national director of the Anglican Church's Board of Social Responsibility.

Boesak, president of the World Council of Reformed Churches and a supporter of the UDF—the largest and most influen-

tial radical anti-apartheid group in the country—said he had "no doubt" the detentions resulted from the announcement of the march. He pledged the demonstration would go ahead at Pollsmoor Prison outside Cape Town, where Mandela has been held for 21 years on a conviction of plotting sabotage.

"The crackdown is yet another sign that the gov-

**• A rare interview with Nelson Mandela; Page 51 in Views.**

ernment is incapable of handling peaceful protest," Boesak said.

In a statement, Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange warned the public not to join the march.

"No illegal gathering will be allowed and the police will take stern action in this regard," le Grange said.

In Washington, the State Department, faced with mounting criticism of its "constructive engage-

ment" policy toward South Africa, plans to send a squad of employees across the country to defend it, officials said yesterday.

Frank Wisner, deputy assistant secretary for African affairs, said the effort is designed to "correct misimpressions of what we are trying to do" to ease tensions in South Africa.

"There's been a growing demand for information about southern Africa and South Africa, and our policy toward the region. That interest has grown with recent events there," Wisner said.

The Reagan administration has refused to abandon constructive engagement, or quiet diplomacy, despite public and congressional pressure.

Wisner said the campaign to promote constructive engagement was "in its most preliminary stages." Still undecided, he said, is whether the State Department will set up a formal office for the public relations drive or merely "set aside" employees to make the speeches.