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dy MARGARET EASTERBROOK

The former Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, said yesterday that conditions for Aborigines and South African blacks could not be compared because Australia's laws favored the Aborigines, while apartheid laws discriminated against blacks.

Mr Fraser said the extent of discrimination in the Aborigines favor and the opportunities that were not provided to other Australians would be apparent if all funds paid by the Australian taxpayers on behalf of the Aborigines were added up.

"Some Aborigines are always trying to suggest that their condition is similar to that of blacks in South Africa. Africans know that that is totally and absolutely false," Mr Fraser said.

He said this was why the Aboriginal cause was not taken up when the Commonwealth Games were held in Brisbane. "They looked at the issue closely, they saw there was no analogy, no similarity."

Mr Fraser was speaking after he had launched Care Australials \$1 million Cambodia and Vietnam Appeal.

Mr Fraser, who led the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group that reported on apartheid in South Africa, reaffirmed his support for maintaining sanctions against South Africa until the legislation that formed the basis of apartheid was repealed.

Mr Fraser said the Aborigines had full political and legal rights and the generality of Australian laws in relation to health, education, work opportunities and in other areas discriminated in their favor.

It was another question if these programs were effective, but

"Australian taxpayers push out much, much larger sums than they are aware of, to help Aborigines," he said.

Mr Fraser said he believed many Aborigines would like all programs to be abolished, along with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, and would prefer to receive the money instead. "The result might be a better one".

Asked why, if there was discrimination in favor of Aborigines, there was a Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody, Mr Fraser said that this issue was "disturbing" and involved many sociological and cultural factors. But he said it could not be

expected that all jails would provide "the kind of treatment that one would expect".

On sanctions, Mr Fraser said the South African President, Mr F. W. de Klerk, should be credited for taking steps towards negotiations. But the removal of discriminatory legislation, and further negotiations between the Government, Mr Mandela, and other groups were essential before the lifting of sanctions could be considered.

He said that in the United States there were legislative controls for maintaining sanctions, which the THE AGE, _Wednesday 24 October 1990 ejects connparis

The former Prime Minister Mr Malcolm Fraser and his daughter Phoebe discuss Care Australia's

on to S Africa

Picture: JOHN LAMB

\$1 million Cambodia and Vietnam Appeal in his Melbourne Office.

business leaders had said were very effective. Certain requirements had to be fulfilled, before sanctions could be lifted.

On black fighting in South Africa, Mr Fraser said it was not the time to blame a particular group, when attempts were being made to set up negotiations.

"There's no doubt, in the past, W-

the Government has been partisan and it has supported some groups against others," he said. , He had heard of instances where criminals had been let out of jail on the basis that they beat up or killed anti-apartheid workers. This would then be reported as black violence.

"it's a complex issue and not something that should be dealt with simply," Mr Fraser said.

He said that if sanctions were lifted, it should be in cooperation -' with the United States' and the Commonwealth.

He said he would support sanctions being lifted if that was what Mr Mandela wanted. But he would be very surprised if that were so.