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Botha Condemns Reagan's Sanctions

By Alan Cowell

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CAPE TOWN — President Pieter W. Botha of South Africa condemned Monday night the Reagan administration's announcement of limited economic sanctions and said outside attempts to interfere in his country's affairs could only retard racial change.

President Ronald Reagan's announcement of limited sanctions, moreover, would diminish the ability of the United States to influence events in southern Africa, he said.

"Sanctions cannot solve our problem," Mr. Botha said. "South Africa's decisions will be made by South Africa's leaders. The leaders of South Africa will themselves decide what is in our interests." He said the objective is peaceful reform.

[Bishop Desmond M. Tutu, the Nobel peace laureate, derided the sanctions as "not even a flea bite" and issued his strongest denunciation to date of Mr. Reagan, brand-

ing him a "racist," The Washington Post reported from Johannesburg.

["I'm not impressed," said Bishop Tutu. He said that Mr. Reagan was merely trying to save himself from the "humiliation of a veto override." He added that the U.S. president "is much more interested in helping Republicans to be re-elected than in ending the bloodshed; he has no real interest in the welfare of blacks."]

Mr. Botha's statement seemed a further enunciation of policy formulated well before the declaration of a state of emergency in 36 districts just over seven weeks ago. The authorities apparently do not plan to accelerate or modify a program of limited racial reform and will not be seen to act under outside pressure.

Additionally, Mr. Botha reiterated complaints voiced by himself and other white leaders in the past that those who sought sanctions did so without considering the

plight of those affected by economic embargoes.

Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel tabulated the economic reliance of black-ruled neighbor states on South Africa and said his country employed or sustained millions of blacks from neighboring countries, supplied electric power to five neighbors, provided trade routes for the imports and exports of at least six southern African states and maintained and carried spare parts for six southern African airlines.

Moreover, he said, South Africa's customs union with Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland provided "a substantial percentage of total revenue" of those countries.

"If the American Congress votes for sanctions against South Africa," he said, "it could very well start a process leading to misery and suffering for millions of innocent blacks in the entire southern African region."