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UK Govt Minister's no to ANC

The Star's Foreign
News Service

INVERNESS — A British Government Minister refused to meet with an African National Congress representative here yesterday.

The Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Timothy Raison, refused to meet the ANC's Mr Solly Smith at a conference of Lome Convention signatories.

Mr Raison had been challenged to do so by Ms Janey Buchanan, secretary of the Labour Party's MPs in the European Parliament.

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The Government has always said it will not meet the ANC because it espouses violence against a country with which Britain has diplomatic relations.

But, Ms Buchanan pointed out in a letter to Mr Raison, Mrs Thatcher had now agreed to meet a Palestine Liberation Organisation delegation.

She took this as "a small sign the Government is prepared to talk with people it has previously shunned" and said she was sure he would be willing to follow Mrs Thatcher's lead and meet the ANC.

However, Mr Raison said he would not be meeting the ANC.

78 Lome nations agree to give ANC recognition

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INVERNESS — The African National Congress has won recognition from the 78 nations represented in the Lome Convention — a grouping of European Economic Community and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.

And the Lome nations who are to meet in Swaziland in January want to bring together under their aegis the National Party, the ANC, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and other coloured, Indian and white leaders.

Only five people voted against allowing the ANC observer status at the first joint assembly of ACP and EEC states. They included two mem-

bers of the British Conservative group in the European Parliament.

The proposal to invite South Africans to the Swaziland meeting was made by Mr Christopher Jackson, the leader of the Conservative group.

At a Press conference he said he was "suspicious" of the ANC.

He told delegates he was opposed to apartheid and he had had talks with his government to persuade them to endorse the EEC's limited sanctions.

But mandatory sanctions would promote revolution.

The ANC's chief representative in London, Mr Solly Smith, was allowed to address the meeting and received a long ovation.

Europe's eyes on SAP

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INVERNESS — The South African Police are the focus of concern among even the most conservative European politicians.

As nightly scenes of South African police sjambokking demonstrators continue to be screened on major television networks, even Mr Christopher Jackson, leader of the British Conservative group in the European Parliament and regarded as one of its most pro-South African members, has spoken out.

In yesterday's debate in the 78-state joint assembly of EEC and ACP countries, he called on the South African police to moderate their behaviour.