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JAPAN T I MES

3/9/86

S. African Foreign
Botha Set for Visit to .lin

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JOHANNESBURG (Financial Times Service) ~ Pik
Botha, the South African foreign minister, flies to Japan Tuesday for five days of talks as part of a concerted effort to boost South African relations with .-":~ia and reduce dependence on sanction prone European countries.

After meeting both Japanese politicians and businessmen, Botha will go on to Taiwan, where Dawie de Villiers, the South African minister for trade and industry, met Taiwanese officials Monday. De Villiers last week made an unannounced stopover in Japan for talks with businessmen.

High on South Africa's list of priorities is the maintenance and development of its coal exports in the face of sanctions

JOHANNESBURG (Kyodo)
-â\200\224 South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha left here Tuesday for an unofficial visit to Japan by way of Taiwan.

moves in its European markets. Last year, Japan last year took about 20 percent of South Africa's 44.8 million tons of coal exports.

Japan has also sharply increased imports of South African gold in connection with the minting of the Emperor gold coin, although most of its gold purchases were made indirectly through Europe and the U.S., where gold purchases helped to offset its politically embarrassing trade surpluses.

Botha is the highest-ranking South African politician ever to

visit Japan although last year
Dr. Gerhard de Kock, governor
of the Reserve Bank and
Barend du Plessis, the finance
minister, stopped in Tokyo for
, talks with Japanese business
and finance leaders on their
way home from the annual
meeting of the IMF in Seoul

On the formal diplomatic
level Japan only maintains
consular representation in Pre-
toria, while the Japanese exter-
nal trade mission JETRO
has an office in Johannesburg.
Japan has tended to keep a low
profile over the sanctions issue
but seems prepared to follow
the US. and European lead.

Last October Japan
announced a ban on computer
sales to government bodies en-
forcing apartheid including, the
security forces.

Activists Want Botha's Visit Banned

Wanted to protest Botha's visit

A group of anti-apartheid

activists in Tokyo visited the

Foreign Ministry Tuesday to

protest South African Foreign
Minister Roelof Botha's visit to

About 10 representatives of
five organizations, including
the Japan Socialist Party and
Japan Anti-Apartheid Commit-

tee, visited the Foreign Minis-

try and handed senior official
Kunisada Kume a letter reques-
ting that Foreign Minister
Tadashi Kuranari not meet with
his South African counterpart.
According to the ministry,
Botha is scheduled to come to
Japan for the first time on a
private visit Sept. 3-7 and is
scheduled to meet Kuranari on
Wednesday.

The group demanded that the
Japanese foreign minister can-
cel permission for Botha to en-
ter the country. or at least. for-
bid government officials from
meeting with him.

The anti-apartheid group also requested that the government institute stronger sanctions against South Africa to demand abolition of the apartheid system.

Chisato Tatebayashi, a representative of the JSI, told the foreign ministry official that Japan's attitude toward apar-

theid was lukewarm compared with other developed countries.

' With this in mind, Kuranari should not meet with Botha to show him that Japan maintains a firm stance against apartheid, Tatebayashi said.

Kume told the group that the meeting between the two ministers does not mean that Japan condones apartheid in South Africa, adding that he would hand over their letter of protest to Kuranari.

We decided to accept Botha's request for a meeting because it will provide a good opportunity for us to present South Africa our views on the issue," he said.

Japan is currently exercising economic sanctions and banning cultural and sports exchanges with South Africa to protest apartheid, he pointed out (Mayo Issobel

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JAPAN TIMES

18/8/86

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sanctions, including prohibi-
tions on selling computers to the
South African military forces
and police and discouraging the
public from buying Krugerrand
gold coins. It also advised Japa-
nese firms with operations in
South Africa to employ native
blacks under equal working'
conditions with Japanese and
white workers.
Further cited, the ministry
started last October offering
; scholarships for black students
.-in South Africa to receive hlgh-5
.er education.
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Japan. a majortrading parts
1 ner of South Africa. is about to
j impose limited sanctions
3 against the anti-apartheidie-
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powers. but it is' an open ques-
tion just what this will mean.

The joint international effort
involving imposition of same
tions on South Africa is likely to
come into force early this fall â\200\230a
Foreign Ministry official indi-
cated Wednesday '

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Naoto Amaki chief" otâ\200\230 the
ministry' s African Division
emphasized in an interview
Iwith The Japan Times that the
; move like those Of the other 113-5,
tions was in protestagainst the

5-Pretoria governmÃch'tâ\200\231s racial _

discrimination policies.
1 Although Amaki withheld ref-
erence to the teXt, of the sanc-
tions. he'said they'will be limâ\200\224 â\200\231

ated. " Japan is not ending its trade with South Africa.

011 this score. Peter Sluiter, secretary-general of the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid, is critical. In a separate interview during a recent visit to Japan. he said imposition of sanctions with a lot of loopholes. will not solve any problem in South Africa.

He claimed a series of sanctions which Japan has applied since 1969 were designed to leave economic relations with South Africa unhindered. It is about time for Japan to give up its old approach based on dou-

hle standards " Sluiter said.

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Responding to Sluiter's remarks, Arliaki contended that Japan has taken a firm stance against Pretoria probably. - much stricter than other countries.

The Foreign Ministry has repeated over and over again that Japan strongly opposes apartheid he insisted and Japan sincerely desires a solution to the problem on behalf of the people of South Africa. Respecting the 1969 anti-apartheid resolution of the United Nations the Japanese government bars cultural educational all sports exchanges, trade in arms and direct investments as means of having joint ventures.

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Africa to the counselor level. The two nations do not have embassies each other's capitals.

Last July the Japanese government added a few more

students to Japan to study high technology and other things "

Amaki said.

However as Sluiter pointed out there are many loopholes in the Japanese sanctions.

For instance, the ban on selling Japanese computers means only direct sales to the Pretoria government and police but not to local dealers.

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"How effective is the sanction if the Pretoria government officials can buy Japanese computers from local dealers?" Sluiter asked.

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Then there is the matter of Krugerrand gold coins. While government officials here point out that Japan's import of the coins is now zero, the import of gold from South Africa rose 4-12 percent within a year between 1984 and 1985.

Japan is second to the United States in total purchases from South Africa. In 1984, Japanese imports totaled \$1.335 million in value, including precious metals and other natural resources of South Africa, according to a white paper published by Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The paper also showed Japan to be the third largest exporter to South Africa in 1984, following the US. and West Germany. Japan's sales totaled \$1.934 million in manufactured goods, mainly industrial machines and automobiles.

A spokesman of the Japan Anti-apartheid Committee pointed out that more than half

of the cars running in South Africa and almost 100 percent of home vehicles there are Japanese. With regard to the loopholes, Amaki said. "Some may think that the sanctions are too lenient, but the government has and will continue to oppose a full blockade for various reasons?"

Amaki pointed out that Japan

associates itself with other nations that view a total blockade as not necessarily productive for achieving a solution to apartheid.

The Pretoria government has threatened to impose countersanctions. Last Tuesday it announced controls on trade with Zambia and Zimbabwe as a countermeasure against the international sanctions campaign

It is also possible for them to impose countersanctions against the bigger countries, including Japan.

Japanese officials cannot ignore the fact that South Africa is economically vital to Japan. Most of the imported natural resources, including gold and coal, are possibly replaceable. But curtailment of precious metals imports would have a strong effect in the Japanese high technology fields.

Some 50 percent of Japan's imports of vanadium, chromium, manganese and white gold are imported from South Africa, and Japan does not have much stockpiles of these critical minerals.

In addition to these practical reasons limiting the scale of economic sanctions, there is domestic pressure in Japan against sanctions.

Shintaro Ishihara, secretary-general of the Japan-South Africa Parliamentarians' Friendship League, said further sanctions will only make the Pretoria government defensive and further worsen conditions for the blacks.

Ishihara said: "Like the Aesop fable of the North Wind and the Sun, Japan can be the sun and persuade the Pretoria government to take off its coat by maintaining good economic relations with South Africa."

Ishihara's view is shared by some 40 members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) who joined his league in 1934. The league is committed to facilitating diplomatic relations between the two countries and ending economic and cultural

sanctions against South Africa.
Ishihara also stressed that
Japan's close economic re-
lationship with South Africa
benefits both whites and blacks
there.

We Japanese, as the first
non-white nation to join the
Western nations, should seek to
persuade the Pretoria govern-
ment of the high ability of the
colored race. This is the way for
us to contribute to dismantling
apartheid in South Africa, he
advised.

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r i v a t e y i s i t t o J a p a n t o m e e t

with business leaders .

The next parliamentary elections are not expected until 1989, according to South African, in Japan. The presidential

officials
dent is elected by members of the House of Assembly, or

ment is informed .

The sources said de Kierk ' would not discuss sports and cultural exchanges during the visit . Japan generally opposes with the United Nations boycott - sports and cultural exchanges - with South Africa to protest its apartheid , or forced policy

racial segregation .

Japanese Consul General is in South Africa confirmed that they had heard about the proposed visit . but said the consulate has not yet received a visa

application .

De Kierk would be the third South African minister to visit August following

Japan Since

visits by Minister of Trade and Industries Dawid de Villiers

and Foreign Minister Roelof

â\200\234â\200\230Pik" Botha. De Villiers made

a secret six-day visit during

which he spoke with business

Foreign Minister Botha, who

leaders.

met with his Japanese counterpart

â\200\230

part Tadashi Kuranari for the

weekend up a five-day â\200\234 private

visit Sunday When he leaves

from Osaka for Taiwan and

Hong Kong before returning

During the visit , Botha met

home .

with â\200\234 in the United States , â\200\234 m -

cluding Diet members and business

ness leaders , according to South

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â\200\230 African official is here .

Sources in the ruling Liberal

Democratic Party said Botha

had a meeting with six LDP

Diet members on Thursday

afternoon. during which they

said he asked Japan to convince

the United States not to impose

economic sanctions .

Japan. whose citizens have

the status of â\200\234 honorary whites "

in South Africa , does not form

ally recognize South Africa.

Diplomatic relations between

the two countries are limited to

the consular level .

Botha said in an interview

with Kyodo News Service
in Asia to
Thursday that he is
seek diversified trade with the
4 trading partner i a s t y e a r , i s
considering imposing sanctions
in accord with action to he
taken by the United States and
Western Europe, Japanese o E i i -
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The sources said the planned
visit by the South African minis-
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Japzin dâ\200\230EEWâ\200\230Tî-\201Eâ\200\230Trom the
U .N. Anti-Apartheid Committee
for accepting a visit by South
African Foreign Minister
Roeioi â\200\234Pikâ\200\235 Botha earlier this
De Kierk woud have been the
iourth' South Atrican Cabinet
minister to visit Japan this year
his visit. planned {or eariy
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next month. materialized.
S o u t h A f r i c a â\200\230 s M i n i s t e r O t E n -
vironmentai Affairs and Tour-
ism visited the country in June
and its Trade and industry
Minister DJ. Villicrs made an
unpubtieized visit to Japan tast
month.
government hosted the South
African ministers un â\200\234private
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7/9/86

Japan, U.S. , EC Eye
S. Afric all Sanctions

Japan plans to impose new economic sanctions against South Africa around Sept. 20 in a joint action with the United States and the European Community, a top Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

The official, who spoke on the understanding that he not be named, said that Japan hopes to take such a joint action.

â\200\234If (past sanctions are) not enough, we will do what we have not done yet Basically, we want it to be a (joint) Japan-U.S.-EC action,â\200\235 he said.

A senior ministry official, Wasuke Miyake, visited European capitals earlier this week

1 for the coordination.

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The official added that the timing for a final decision will be sometime between mid- and late September. Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari will debut

-â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224-â\200\224-.,

before the international community on Sept. 23 when he makes a speech before a session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Japanese sanctions are expected to include a ban on importing South African iron ore and coal. and an end to Japanese landing rights for South African Airways. Japan may also announce a fund contribution to a project to improve port facilities in Mozambique which is hoped to reduce economic dependence on South Africa by its neighboring black states.

Kuranari, in a meeting Thursday with visiting South African Foreign Minister Roelof â\200\234Pikâ\200\235 Botha, warned that Japan would be forced to take sanctions unless the nation quickly abandons apartheid..

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JAPAN TIMES
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By SlllNJl ITO

J a an on Friday announced a
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ainst South Africa, in-
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ban on importing pig
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.1 The Japanese governmen
\however, has not taken a stand
oi" omplete opposition to; the
led South African regime.
â\200\234We have taken note of part of
lca'n'da-regusaï-\201g *\ South African explana-
fios
.We do not blame
only 0 Africa," one official,
who spoke o the understanding
that he not be named, said.

Chief Cabin

â\200\230S\cretary
Masaharu Gotoda announced
that the government wil also
, discourage Japanese citizens

South African Foreign Minis-
ter ROelof â\200\234Pikâ\200\235 Botha told
from visiting the country as \Japan se officials earlier this
tourists, forbid government em.
month tha ANC and other hard
core anti-apartheid bodies have
ployees to use international
i-\202ights operated by South Afri
refused to abandon violence and
.
s and confirmed
that direct flights between
"Japan and South Africa will not
be allowed.

â\200\230 accept negï-\201tiations

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Government officials said the
moderate sanctions are unlike-
ly to prompt the whiteâ\200\224minority
government of South Africa to
abandon apartheid but they are
a political gesture intended to
help foster an â\200\234environment"
for direct negotiatien
South Africa and its outlawed
'rebel forces, including the Afri-
can National Congress (ANC),

and may facilitate release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

»

Gotoda said in a statement, which was approved by the Cabinet Friday morning, that Japan seeks a solution through negotiations involving all the parties concerned. Foreign Ministry officials said this means that Japan also seeks to persuade the black rebels to discard their arms and agree to negotiate peacefully if the white-led government shows signs of serious reforms.

The sanctions were prepared after close consultations with the US. and European governments. A plan to impose a ban

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The Japanese ban on importing iron and steel will take effect in about a month. when the Ministry of International Trade and Industry invokes the Control Law. Already-

imported contracts are not subject to the ban, and neither is the import of iron ore. In 1985, Japan imported \$196 million worth of iron and steel, or about 10 percent of the total Japanese imports of iron and steel products from all

9 percent of imports of the

» over the world.

The refusal to

the tourist elite. The Japanese government took immediate action last year about 1000 South African tourists obtained visas to enter Japan. About 3,000 other South Africans visited Japan in the year, mostly for business. Japan is South Africa's third largest trading partner after the US. and West Germany.

which has 101 sanctions is likely

has called for, in favor
sanctions.

Even if the EC decides to b

South African coal, Japan will
not go along because the ban
would directly affect workers at
South African coal mines, who
are mostly blacks, and because
Nippon SteelCorp. and other
firms have strongly opposed the
idea, according to officials.

One official said that Japan
does not expect South Africa to
take countersanctions against
Japan and that the current
round of international sanctions
will probably be the last
enacted against the nation.

In past sanctions, Japan has
limited diplomatic relations
with South Africa to the consu-
lar level; banned investment
and loans; restricted issuance
of visas; forbidden sales of
computers to South African
police and other apartheid-en-
forcing bodies; and discour-
aged the importing of gold coins
from the country.