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French .

THE CITIZEN

COMMENT

Mm) Get tough

THE First round in the F W de Klerk-Nelson  
Mandela sanctions battle has gone to Mr  
Mandela.

The Commonwealth Southern Africa Com-  
mittee has announced that it will campaign  
against any easing of international sanctions.  
This after a two-hour meeting last week be-  
tween Canadian Foreign Minister, Mr Joe  
Clark. and Foreign Minister. Mr Pik Botha.  
had ended with Mr Clark acknowledging  
there had been t'a lot of progress in South  
Africa," and indicating the Commonwealth  
might be less dogmatic on what it expected of  
South Africa on the sanctions issue.  
However. the South Africans under-estimated  
the impact of Mr Mandela.

A communique from the Commonwealth  
committee, which met in Nigeria. said: tlTo  
relax sanxctions now would abort the process  
towards negotiations (in South Africa) that  
had barely commenced."

Its views were based on authoritative reports  
from inside South Africa. especially from Mr  
Mandela. who told the meeting that despite  
Mr De Klerkls reforms, the pillars of apart-  
heid remained intact.

So sanctions must stay, and the committee is  
going to urge the European Community and  
the Group of Seven industrialised nations to  
keep up sanctions. too.

That is nbt all. The committee suggests that  
after dealing with the release of political pris-  
oners, the government-ANC working; party  
should go on to tackle such matters its the  
state of emergency, laws curtailing pilitical  
activity, and the presence of troops imBlack  
townships.

The stage would then be set for dismantling  
laws on segregation, resolving armed con-  
flicts and preparing for elections under a uni-  
versal suffrage. ' ' '

In other words. it wants the whole caboodle.  
We have a feeling that nothing will induce the  
committee to lift sanctions until the new  
South Africa is in place and run by the ANC.

.Xs against the Commonwealth setback. Mr  
De Klerk has been achieving remarkable suc-  
cess in his travels in Europe.

Leaders and heads of state are taken with him  
and his reformist'zeal.

They acknowledge that the process of change  
is irreversible.

Since that was a condition for lifting sanctions.  
the European Community should be all set to  
ease some of its restrictions.

That Mr De Klerk needs such support was in-  
dicated by Mr Botha. who said in Brussels:  
"He (Mr De Klerk) cannot continue like this  
indefinitely at his rapid pace (of reform)  
without some reward or some recognition  
which we can show to the White electorate."

Judging from the comments of both the State  
President and Mr Botha. they are confident  
they have made a major breakthrough in

By Douglas Hamilton

PARIS. - "Dirty Jew!  
Dirty Arab!" spat the  
masked attackers. It  
was all the same to  
them.

The assault on a high  
school teacher who was  
beaten for lecturing  
against racism and anti-  
'Semitism epitomised con-  
temporary Rightwing xe-  
nophobia in France.

It equates French Jews  
with North African Arab  
immigrants as alien para-  
sites.

But its attacks on the  
latter are far more overt  
because the racists sense  
that whereas very few  
French would admit to a  
prejudice against Jews,  
many resent the Arabs.

race' relations experts say.  
He teacher. Christiane  
Guiard of Emile Zola  
College in Royan, near  
Bordeaux. is neither  
Arab nor Jew.

She was attacked on  
Monday for instructing  
pupils that. in France, ra-  
cism is not an opinion but  
a crime.

Hand in hand

She was pointing out  
that racism often goes  
hand-in-hand with anti-  
Semitism. and that it can  
lead to outrages such as  
the May 10 desecration of  
the Jewish cemetery in  
the southern town of Car-  
pentras. in which a body  
was dug up and impaled.

A national Human Rights  
the incident prompted the  
media to turn their atten-  
tion to all manifestations  
of anti-Semitism.

This narrow focus in  
turn prompted race re-  
"M"! H

lations experts and le-  
ading politicians to point  
that the Carpentras att.  
should not obscure  
fact that Arabs and A-  
fricans are the main victims  
of French xenophobia.

Racism and anti-Semi-  
tism were inextricably  
linked, they said. Until  
they were combatted as a  
single evil and not as  
selective outrage. The  
problem would grow.

When the National As-  
sembly observed a mi-  
nute's silence on Wednes-  
day for the Carpentras

victims. speaker Laurant Fabius, a former Prime Minister of Jewish descent, said the shameful attack "did not happen on its own".

It was preceded by other acts, committed against other communities and by a climate of the twisting of history, so-called innocent jokes. Riots, verbal aggression Prime Minister Michel Rocard said previous attacks "had less impact it was no less serious".

Drawn to attention by politicians, contemptuous historians and racialist specialists said the desecration had drawn public attention to anti-Semitism.

More than 100 people -among them President Francois Mitterrand and Mr Rocard- took to the streets of Paris on Monday to demonstrate.

Albanian Opposition puts brakes By Paul Holmes

in TIRANA. - Fear of a Romanian-style bloody revolution has pushed Albanian leaders towards reform, according to dissidents involved in unprecedented protests.

F... :L H, , h 'L the first in Albania since World War Two.

strikers scrawled messages against the wall.

It is the Old Guard's attachment to Hoxha's legacy of iron rule that the dissidents see as the main problem. The Wu n...x: r,...

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in other words. it wants the whole cuboodle.

We have a feeling that nothing will induce the committee to lift sanctions until the new South Africa is in place and run by the ANC.

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They acknowledge that the process of change is irreversible.

Since that was a condition for lifting sanctions, the European Community should be all set to ease some of its restrictions.

That Mr De Klerk needs such support was indicated by Mr Botha, who said in Brussels:

"He (Mr De Klerk) cannot continue like this indefinitely at his rapid pace (of reform) without some reward or some recognition which we can show to the White electorate."

Judging from the comments of both the State President and Mr Botha, they are confident they have made a major breakthrough in Europe.

However. Mr Mandela is to meet EC members in Brussels next month. French President Francois Mitterrand, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mrs Margaret Thatcher (leaders whom Mr De Klerk will have met), as well as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. .

Mr Mandela will be pressing the Western leaders not to lift sanctions. thus undermining all the good that Mr De Klerk has done.

Who will win this round of the De Klerk-Mandela bout?

It may be a draw, with the lifting of relatively minor sanctions and the maintenance of the main measures. or Mr Mandela may win.

The following and perhaps decisive round will be fought in Washington when both Mr De Klerk and Mr Mandela. at different times. have talks at the White House with President George Bush.

We admire Mr De Klerk's present form. but we believe it is time he fought Mr Mandela with his gloves off.

Mr Mandela is not his mate. however well they get on. but a tough and wily opponent who is out to win at all costs.

Instead of trying to be nice to him. and to please the overseas crowd. Mr De Klerk must get tougher if he is to win the battle. 12K time. in other words. that he hit back hard.

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But the man Albanians  
see as the champion 0!  
change President Rami7  
Alia. has to tackle an env  
trenched Old Guard  
which dissidents say op-  
lposes any retreat from  
hardline rule in Europe's  
last orthodox Communist  
State.  
The dissidents and win  
nesses have confirmed  
three protests this year in  
this Balkan country of  
just over three million  
people. which is now  
opening up to the world  
after four decades of iso-  
lation under late Stalinist  
founder. Enver Hoxha.  
They comprise a silent  
rally in Tirana in late  
January. clashes with  
police and the chanting of  
pro-Alia. anti-Hoxha slo-  
gans at a soccer match in  
March. and an eight-hour  
strike by I 000 textth  
workers in the central  
town of Betut about a  
month ago.  
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