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Tokyo, March 18, 1992

Statement made by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe
on the Referendum on reform in the
Republic of South Africa

1. The Government of Japan welcomes the fact that, in the referendum held on 17 March 1992 in the Republic of South Africa, the continuation of President F W de Klerk's reform process was re-affirmed by an overwhelming majority.
2. The result of the referendum clearly indicates that the negotiation process between the parties concerned, started by the "Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA)", has gained wide-ranging support, thereby making the reform aimed at the enactment of a new constitution more solid than before.
3. The Government of Japan hopes that all the parties concerned in South Africa will accept the result of the referendum and seriously participate in the negotiations for the establishment of a democratic and free system without racial discrimination, so that the reforms in South Africa will make steady progress.

end of statement