



A warm hug for Winnie Mandela from Danielle Mitterrand as President Mitterrand greets Nelson Mandela yesterday evening.

● Picture by Associated Press.

THE SINE THURSDAY JUNE 7 1990. Mitterrand ignores Mandela's sanctions plea

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PARIS — ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela has used his first public platform on his six-nation European tour to urge French President Mitterrand and other Western leaders to maintain sanctions against South Africa.

But in a lengthy tribute to the ANC leader on his arrival in France yesterday, President Mitterrand ignored the issue which will be the focus of Mr Mandela's six-week interna-

al tour of 13 states on three continents.

Amid cries of "Sanctions, sanctions" by a flag-waving crowd of anti-apartheid activists who gathered at the Human Rights Esplanade to welcome Mr Mandela to France, President Mitterrand lashed out at the cruelty of racism.

But the president, who last month warmly received President de Klerk, stayed clear of the sanctions issue which will come up for renewal at a European Community summit in Dublin later this month.

Mr Mandela called for continued international support against the South African Government, which, he said, had recognised the failure of apartheid but had not yet addressed the illegitimacy of white minority rule.

"Sanctions must remain in place until profound and irreversible changes have taken place in our troubled country," he said last night at a public ceremony organised by Mr Mitterrand's wife, Danielle.

Due to the mass struggle of South Africans and international

support, he felt confident "victory is in sight". However, the last mile would be the most difficult and the international world should "walk this road with us", Mr Mandela said.

President Mitterrand, speaking in French, said he had fought against racism all his life and would continue to do so.

"France is the country of human rights, and therefore it is your country, too, but at the time that you are among us, it is difficult to imagine that you are not even a citizen of your own country."