

Jackson to meet with South African president

By Laurinda Keys
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson arrived Wednesday for talks with South African leaders and said he hoped to see Nelson Mandela freed and "walking down the streets of Johannesburg" before he leaves.

Jackson gave a thumbs-up sign as he arrived at the airport for his 12-day visit, ignoring shouts from a handful of white right-wingers who shouted, "Jesse, go home!"

He was protected by two lines of black and white policeman. A black man started a brief chorus of "Welcome, Jesse" among black airport workers lining the balconies.

Jackson, granted a visa for the first time since his

1979 visit, said he hoped to encourage unity among black political factions and to "address the unfounded fears of the whites."

The American civil rights leader plans to meet President F.W. de Klerk, Foreign Minister Pik Botha and leaders of the anti-apartheid movement. He and his wife, Jackie, were greeted at the airport by African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu, his wife, Albertina, and church leaders Rev. Allan Boesak and Frank Chikane.

"This is a moment in South Africa's history that must be seized," Jackson said. "If the government moves back, there will be chaos. If it stands still, there will be tension. But if the government seizes the political moment and moves forward, we will see the dawn of a new, free and democratic South Africa."

Jackson declined to say whether he had requested a meeting with Mandela, the ANC leader who is expect-

ed to be released soon after more than 27 years in prison.

"I have no commitment from the government to meet him," Jackson said. "I hope to see him walking down the streets of Johannesburg. The whole world hopes to see him free."

In Cape Town, Koos van der Merwe, chief spokesman for the Conservatives, the main white opposition party, said de Klerk deceived whites last week by suddenly legalizing the African National Congress guerrilla movement and more than 60 other anti-apartheid groups.

The Conservative Party promised its actions against de Klerk would be peaceful. But an extreme-right, Nazi-style group called the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, which has been involved in violent confrontations with blacks, promised to protest Jackson's appearances throughout the country during his tour.

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Guns

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said. "People are always talking about how criminals buy assault weapons in stores. But most often, criminals will ask another person to buy the gun for them, and a 30-day waiting period or even a 45-day waiting period won't change that."

Lane County Sheriff Dave Burks said the new segment of the law governing the issuance of concealed weapons permits has removed much of his discretion in deciding who gets a permit.

The new law requires a sheriff to issue a concealed weapons permit if a person meets certain guidelines, including residence in the county where the application is made, proof of completion of a firearms safety course, no felony convictions and no commitment to the Mental Health Division for the last four years.

Burks said one reason for the new legislation was the vast difference in numbers of permits issued by different counties.

Burks said the most advantageous addition to gun laws was the establishment of a central registry of persons committed to the Mental Health Division. Persons listed in the registry are prohibited from purchasing firearms for four years after commitment.

Three people listed in the registry already have been caught attempting to purchase firearms since the law went into effect Jan. 1, Burks added.

Paul Wolf, owner of The Gun Works in Springfield, said he's "just delighted" about the new law's mental records check requirement, adding that Patrick Purdy, the man involved in the Stockton schoolchildren shooting, had been committed at one time but his records were sealed.

"But most of the time if a guy's got a record he won't come in here to buy a gun," Wolf said. "He'll buy it at a garage sale or on the street."

Wolf said the problem with gun laws isn't that they're not strict enough, but that they're not enforced.

"We need to put the punishment back in jail time," he said.

Wolf thinks a good alternative to strict gun control laws is a mandatory ten-year sentence for use of a firearm while committing a crime, as well as sentencing for the crime itself. Wolf also advocates firearm safety education taught as early as the grade school level.

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