



CCFCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 February 1985

Dear Bishop Huddleston

Thank you for your letter of 12 February about Nelson Mandela.

I recognise Mr. Mandela's standing in the Black community of South Africa and I share your concern at his continued imprisonment. We have made it clear to the South African Government both privately and publicly that his release would be widely welcomed as an important gesture of reconciliation.

I have, of course, noted the recent offer of a conditional release for Mr. Mandela and his response to it. We cannot condone violence by Nelson Mandela or anyone else, but do not think it right to attach conditions to his release. We shall continue to make this clear in our contacts with the South African Government.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Most Reverend Trevor Huddleston, CR

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