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cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S**

18 April 1985

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No. T 72/85**

cc MASTER  
OPS

Dear Kenneth,

I have had a full report from Ewen Fergusson of the very thorough discussion which you had with him in Lusaka and of your views for how the aspirations which we share for a peaceful evolution in South Africa might be carried forward.

I agree with you that there must be a genuine dialogue between black people and the South African Government. As you know, I have already pressed President Botha for the unconditional release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and I would hope that, if he were freed, his powerful influence would be placed clearly on the side of moderation and against violence. We cannot overlook, however, the difficulty which his refusal to renounce violence, however understandable in the South African context, presents President Botha. Faith and great goodwill are required and I hope that your intention of enlisting the support of His Holiness The Pope can be the key to unlocking the present impasse.

I shall study with care your suggestion that we, and other Western countries, might consider some evolution in our attitude to, and relationship with, the African National Congress, again with the intention of exerting our influence in favour of moderation. This is a complicated matter and you will not, I know, expect me to react immediately.

With best wishes,

Yours ever  
Margaret

His Excellency Dr. Kenneth D. Kaunda.

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