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THE PRIME MINISTER

29 July 1988

Dear Helmut,

When we discussed South Africa on 9 July we agreed that we should act together to convince the South African Government that they must accelerate the pace of change and, in particular, find a way of releasing Mr. Mandela.

I believe that we are approaching a watershed. Our ability to influence the incoming American Administration on these matters will depend very much on developments in South Africa itself, and between South Africa and her neighbours. Without visible and concrete progress on reform and towards peace, it will be very difficult to carry much conviction with the Americans. I recently asked our Ambassador in Pretoria to ensure that President Botha was aware of these thoughts. You told me of your own recent approach to the South Africans.

We need to see how these representations are received before deciding how best to manage a joint approach. But, as we discussed on 9 July, I believe that we should give serious consideration to sending either a joint message to President Botha, or an emissary to speak personally for both of us. The best time to do this would perhaps be in early to mid-September.

As I am about to leave for a visit to Australia, I suggest that the next step might be for Charles Powell to contact Mr. Teltschik when we return to discuss how best to take forward a joint approach.

Kind regards

Yours ever

Raymond

—

His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl