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PRIME MINISTER

Nelson Mandela telephoned me out of the blue at about a quarter to midnight tonight. He is resting here briefly before travelling on to Canada. He said that he was very anxious to see you before leaving. He had seen many other European Heads of Government and there were some important points he wished to put to you. This was without prejudice to your meeting on 4 July. He wondered whether you could see him at 0800 tomorrow morning. He was extremely apologetic for the appearance of discourtesy in suggesting it at such short notice.

I discovered that he was somewhere near Tunbridge Wells and has to be at Heathrow at about 1000-1030 tomorrow morning. I explained this really seemed to me to rule out a meeting. But I thought you might be prepared to speak to him on the telephone. He said that you might find this discourteous on his behalf. I said that I was sure that this would not be a problem, but I did not think a meeting was physically possible in the time concerned. If necessary I would be happy to travel out very early tomorrow morning to Tunbridge Wells or Heathrow to take a message on your behalf. He was rather insistent that he should speak to you directly.

I left it that I would put the idea of a telephone call to you and let him have an answer at about 0800 tomorrow morning. A call might take place at about 0830-0845.

I hope this is all right. If you see this note, it would be very kind if you could alert the switchboard before 0800 as to whether you would be prepared to take a call, in which case I will arrange it.

C. D. POWELL
16 June 1990

Pembury

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