



Prime Minister

cel. p

Agree no call to Germans letter

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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you would be

22 January 1990

ready to issue an invitation to Mandela - after his release -

Dear Charles, jointly with Chancellor Kohl? It might help help the Germans aboard.

South Africa

Asar

CBP 241

Thank you for your letter of 16 January. We have amended the paper on our possible response to Nelson Mandela's release in accordance with the Prime Minister's comments.

Agreed

When Nelson Mandela is released, we shall face questions about whether the Prime Minister is going to South Africa or whether she will meet Mr Mandela here. The Foreign Secretary agrees that for us alone to launch an invitation to Mr Mandela to come here immediately on his release could simply look opportunist and could even risk a rebuff. It would anyway be surprising if Mr Mandela emerges after a quarter of a century in jail fully ready to enter the political fray and to undertake international engagements. But Mr Hurd thinks there would be some advantages in Chancellor Kohl's approach. For a start, there are obvious Anglo/German benefits in being seen publicly to cooperate in this way. Secondly, a joint invitation would be more likely to get a positive response. Quite a lot of Mr Mandela's ANC advisers would urge him to turn down an invitation to visit Britain. He is less likely to turn down a joint invitation. A joint Anglo/German statement might say that the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl had for a long time been working together to press the case for reform and for Mr Mandela's release; they hoped Mr Mandela's release would lead to early negotiations; they would welcome an early opportunity to hear from Mr Mandela himself what his plans were, etc. Such a statement would obviously be accompanied by a private contact with Mr Mandela by our Ambassadors in South Africa to prepare the ground.

We do not think President de Klerk's nose would be put out of joint by such a statement. He will shortly receive from Sir Robin Renwick the Prime Minister's invitation to talks if comes to Europe in April. He is likely to have responded to that invitation before Mr Mandela is released. It should not be difficult to arrange for Mr de Klerk to visit London before Mr Mandela, whose priority when he is released is likely to be to hold meetings in South Africa and with the ANC in Lusaka.

Our plan of action already included briefing the Germans in advance. You may wish to have a word with Teltschik and to brief him in greater detail on our thinking.

I think we must let de Klerk know

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as soon as we can after Mandela's release



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I am copying this letter to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours,
Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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S. AFRIKA: Welialat Ptz.