

CONFIDENTIAL

DEDIP

FM CAPETOWN EMBASSY

TO DESKBY 030900Z FCO

TELNO 49

OF 021615Z FEBRUARY 90

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 119/90

Robbin Renwick

SUBJECT cc MASTER OPS

Robbin Renwick will let us have some further suggestions

MY TELNO 46: DE KLERK'S SPEECH

1. DE KLERK HAS SENT ME THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, WHICH WAS PASSED TO HIM AT LUNCHTIME TODAY:

in Randburg.

BEGINS

CAF 2/2

DEAR PRIME MINISTER

mb

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE PASSED TO ME BY YOUR AMBASSADOR, SIR ROBIN RENWICK, ON 2 FEBRUARY 1990.

I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE SEEN THE FULL TEXT OF MY ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT IN CAPE TOWN EARLIER TODAY. YOU WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT I HAVE GENUINELY ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE THE MAJOR REMAINING OBSTACLES TO NEGOTIATION, WHICH I SEE AS THE KEY TO RECONCILIATION, PEACE AND A NEW AND JUST DISPENSATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. AS I INDICATED, AS FAR AS MY GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, THE AGENDA IS OPEN AND THE OVERALL AIMS TO WHICH WE ARE ASPIRING, SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL REASONABLE SOUTH AFRICANS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT REACTION TO THE STEPS WHICH I ANNOUNCED IN MY SPEECH, WHICH ARE INDEED FAR-REACHING. YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

THERE CAN SURELY NO LONGER BE ANY REASONABLE GROUNDS ON WHICH SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISOLATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN GENERAL, IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF ECONOMIC REVIVAL, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUSLY HINDERED BY FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

I TAKE NOTE OF YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICS TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE TIME HAS SURELY COME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO LIFT ALL FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER SANCTIONS WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

I ASSURE YOU THAT MR NELSON MANDELA WILL SHORTLY BE A FREE MAN. ONLY PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, WHICH LARGELY TAKE HIS PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES INTO ACCOUNT, ARE THE CAUSE OF THIS SHORT DELAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM REGARDS AND ENCOURAGEMENT AND FOR YOUR INVITATION TO A MEETING AT CHEQUERS ON 19 MAY 1990. I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN ACCEPTING YOUR INVITATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING YOU AND TO DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE AFTERMATH OF WHAT I HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

WITH KIND REGARDS

ENDS.

2. ON THE REFERENCE IN THIS MESSAGE TO LIFTING FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, I SPOKE TO VAN HEERDEN TO SAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALREADY SAID THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER FURTHER POSITIVE STEPS ONCE MANDELA WAS RELEASED. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, WANT HIS RELEASE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CLEAR OFFER BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO LIFT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IF THE ANC AND PAC WOULD JOIN IN PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS. THAT WAS IMPLICIT IN WHAT DE KLERK HAD SAID BUT NOT YET EXPLICIT. IN THAT EVENT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE FULFILLED THEIR PART OF THE BARGAIN UNDER THE EPG NEGOTIATION CONDITIONS. THE ONLY FINANCIAL SANCTION WE WERE APPLYING WAS THE 'VOLUNTARY' BAN ON NEW INVESTMENT. IF THE SAG MOVED COMPLETELY TO MEETING THE EPG CONDITIONS, THAT CERTAINLY WOULD BE RECONSIDERED. RESCINDING OTHER MEASURES (THE BANS ON CRUDE IRON AND STEEL AND KRUGERRANDS) WOULD REQUIRE THE AGREEMENT OF OTHER EC COUNTRIES, WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. BUT IT WOULD MAKE AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE TO THE WHOLE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT IF CHANCELLOR KOHL ALSO COULD BE BROUGHT TO INDICATE THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE DISSUADED FROM INVESTING HERE. IT REALLY WOULD HELP THEREFORE IF THE GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND I SHOULD SEE MANDELA TOGETHER BEFORE HE WAS RELEASED TO DELIVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE TO HIM.

3. VAN HEERDEN THANKED ME FOR THIS EXPLANATION OF OUR POSITION. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY GRATEFUL FOR OUR REACTIONS. PIK BOTHA WOULD ARGUE FOR A CALL ON MANDELA TO BE AGREED.

4. I WILL TELEGRAPH ON MONDAY A POSSIBLE DRAFT REPLY TO DE KLERK WHEN I HAVE HAD A FURTHER TALK WITH VAN HEERDEN.

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO. 10. AND TO
PS/SEC OF STATE
PS/MR WALDEGRAVE
MR TOMKYS
HEAD OF S AF D

RENWICK

YYYY
CFLNBN 0010

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