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PRIME MINISTERSOUTH AFRICA

I have been in touch with Sir Robin Renwick since very early this morning. We now know the main contents of President de Klerk's speech and it is going to be very good. He is going to announce a firm decision to release Mr. Mandela, ^{unconditionally} with a short passage of time before the actual release while practical arrangements are made. The ANC, the PAC and the SACC will be unbanned. People serving jail sentences for belonging to previously banned organisations will be released, provided they have not been involved in acts of violence. All restrictions on the written press will be lifted, although restrictions will remain on television coverage of violent disturbances. All restrictions on internal South African organisations will be rescinded, as will restrictions on former detainees. In future, detention will be limited to six months, with guaranteed legal and medical access. The death penalty will be reviewed and in future applied only in extreme cases: meanwhile, all executions will be suspended. There will be a justiciable Declaration of Rights. Minority and national rights will be protected, but not so as to bring imbalance in the Constitution.

Although there is no specific date for Mandela's release, this speech goes almost all the way to meet the EPG's demands and is a very major step forward. I have discussed with Robin Renwick some amendments to the statement we should make welcoming it and to your message to President de Klerk. The speech is likely to become public around 1000 our time and we could make the statement at Lobby. Robin would like to deliver the message to President de Klerk this afternoon.

I attach revised texts which I am trying to clear with the Foreign Office. Subject to your approval we will flash them also to Robin Renwick in South Africa. I think they hit the right note: they are, of course, based on the drafts you saw earlier. It is probably best to leave any statement about the voluntary

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ban on investment until Mandela is actually released, which is likely to be very soon.

Content with these texts?

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

2 February 1990

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