

*Pl. file*

SOUTH AFRICA: POINTS TO MAKE

1. THIS WAS A BOLD AND COURAGEOUS SPEECH BY PRESIDENT DE KLERK, WITH REALLY FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS. I HAVE SENT HIM A PERSONAL MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS.
  
2. THE SPEECH OPENS THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALL PARTIES ON A CONSTITUTION WHICH CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS.
  
3. IT HOLDS OUT REAL HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR SOUTH AFRICA.
  
4. THESE STEPS VINDICATE THE CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES WHICH BRITAIN HAS FOLLOWED OF CONTACT RATHER THAN ISOLATION. I BELIEVE WE HAVE HAD AN IMPORTANT AND POSITIVE INFLUENCE. WE WERE RIGHT TO OPPOSE FURTHER SANCTIONS.
  
5. I HOPE A LOT OF GOVERNMENTS WILL NOW TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THEIR POLICIES TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA AND FOLLOW US IN ENCOURAGING CONTACTS.

6. IT IS A HISTORIC DAY FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND WE SHOULD ALL BE DELIGHTED.

ADDITIONAL POINTS

7. AS SOON AS MR. MANDELA IS FREE, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERING HOW TO ENABLE SOUTH AFRICA TO GET ACCESS TO THE FUNDS AND INVESTMENT WHICH IT NEEDS TO CREATE A PROSPEROUS SOCIETY FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICA'S PEOPLE.

8. OF COURSE WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE COMPLETE ENDING OF APARTHEID. PRESIDENT DE KLERK ANNOUNCED A FURTHER STEP IN HIS SPEECH: THE REPEAL OF THE SEPARATE AMENITIES ACT.

9. DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN MANDELA WILL BE RELEASED: BUT PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS SPOKEN OF "A SHORT PASSAGE OF TIME".

10. THE SPEECH COMES VERY CLOSE TO MEETING ALL THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEGOTIATING CONCEPT DRAWN UP BY THE

COMMONWEALTH EMINENT PERSONS' GROUP. HOPE REMAINING EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIFTED ONCE THE ANC INDICATE THEY ARE READY TO TAKE PART IN NEGOTIATIONS.

11. BOTH THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGREED THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN TO REVERSE SANCTIONS ONCE THERE IS EVIDENCE OF CLEAR AND IRREVERSIBLE CHANGE. WITH MANDELA'S RELEASE AND THESE OTHER STEPS THAT IS WHAT WE SHALL HAVE.

12. HAVE INVITED PRESIDENT DE KLERK TO COME FOR AN EARLY MEETING AT CHEQUERS TO DISCUSS THE WAY AHEAD. NO FIRM DATE YET.

13. I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA ONCE MR. MANDELA IS FREE. AGAIN NO DATE ENVISAGED YET.

14. I HOPE MR. MANDELA WOULD BE READY TO VISIT BRITAIN WHEN HE IS FREE.

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PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S SPEECH:

PRESS STATEMENT

We warmly welcome the decision to release Mr Mandela. This is an historic landmark on the road to a new South Africa. We have long urged the South African Government to set him free. President de Klerk is to be congratulated on his decision.

Mr Mandela will have a major role to play in shaping his country's future. His release will give an opportunity for all parties in South Africa to make progress towards a peaceful solution, through negotiations on a constitution fair to the whole population. We encourage them to do so.

The South African Government has taken major steps to open the way to start negotiations in accordance with the negotiating concept proposed by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group. We look to the ANC and other groups to respond positively and peacefully to the offer now being made to join in negotiations to work out a new constitution for South Africa.

The changes now taking place in South Africa vindicate a policy of contact rather than isolation. We do not see that cultural, scientific or academic boycotts make sense or contribute to the weakening of apartheid. In future we shall not discourage artists, scientists and academics from going to South Africa or from joining in meetings with South Africans. We hope that individuals will take advantage of such opportunities to promote dialogue among South Africans. We shall consider further positive steps as soon as Mr Mandela is released.

The Prime Minister looks forward to having an early opportunity of discussing these encouraging developments with both President de Klerk and Mr Mandela. She has invited President de Klerk to an early meeting at Chequers. She will similarly invite Mr Mandela to make a visit to the United Kingdom when he is free.