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UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO FLASH CABINET OFFICE
TELNO U/N
OF 101732Z FEBRUARY 90

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF DUTY CLERK NO 10

UNCLASSIFIED
FM CAPETOWN
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 077
OF 101600Z FEBRUARY 90
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, HARARE, LUSAKA, LAGOS, NAIROBI
INFO IMMEDIATE GABORONE, WINDHOEK, DAR ES SALAAM, KINSHASA, EC POSTS

MY TELNO 76 (NOT TO ALL): MANDELA

1. STATE PRESIDENT FW DE KLERK ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT 1500Z ON 10 FEBRUARY.

BEGINS:

IN PURSUANCE OF MY OPENING ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT, I AM NOW IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE THAT MR NELSON MANDELA WILL BE RELEASED AT THE VICTOR VERSTER PRISON ON SUNDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 1990 AT ABOUT 15:00.

YESTERDAY EVENING I MET WITH MR MANDELA IN CAPE TOWN, TOGETHER WITH MINISTERS VILJOEN AND COETSEE. DURING THE MEETING MR MANDELA WAS INFORMED OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION REGARDING HIS RELEASE.

WE WOULD ALL LIKE MR MANDELA'S RELEASE TO TAKE PLACE IN A DIGNIFIED AND ORDERLY MANNER. TO ATTAIN THIS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE AT THE MOMENT INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTIES CONCERNED IN ORDER TO AFFORD THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS.

TWO ISSUES WERE ALSO RAISED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ME AND MR MANDELA, NAMELY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE POSITION OF PERSONS SERVING SENTENCES FOR POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED SUCH CRIMES AND WHO ARE NOW OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD ENABLE ME TO LIFT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHOUT JEOPARDISING THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. REGARDING THE POSITION OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES, I INDICATED THAT WHILE THIS IS A MATTER THAT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN NEGOTIATIONS, EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE MEANTIME.

I WANT TO EMPHASISE THAT THERE CAN NO LONGER BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY TO CREATE A JUST DISPENSATION BASED ON NEGOTIATIONS. I CALL UPON MR MANDELA AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE PRESENTLY FOCUSED ON ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. ALL OF US NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVE THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF A PEACEFUL PROCESS IN CREATING A NEW SOUTH AFRICA.

ENDS.

RENWICK

PTMIAN 9754

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