

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO

TO DESKBY 101900Z LAGOS  
TELNO 132  
OF 101627Z FEBRUARY 90  
AND TO DESKBY 110700Z LUSAKA

a yr  
PA  
(OK response)  
PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T27E/90

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
CC OPS

FROM RESIDENT CLERK  
SOUTH AFRICA: RELEASE OF MANDELA

1. FOLLOWING THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTENDED RELEASE OF MANDELA, GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ARRANGE FOR THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT BABANGIDA/PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO BE DELIVERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS

I AM SURE THAT YOU TOO ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S SPEECH ON 2 FEBRUARY REPRESENTS A MAJOR ADVANCE, PAVING THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALL SIDES ON HIS COUNTRY'S FUTURE. TO GIVE A POSITIVE SIGNAL OF MY SUPPORT FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE, I HAVE INVITED HIM TO LONDON AND MADE KNOWN THAT IN FUTURE WE WILL ENCOURAGE ACADEMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. I ALSO PLAN TO INVITE MR MANDELA TO LONDON WHEN HE IS FREE. I SHALL THEN MOVE TO END OUR VOLUNTARY BANS ON INVESTMENT AND THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM.

IN TAKING THESE STEPS, PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS TAKEN CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL RISKS. HE HAS MOVED FURTHER AND FASTER THAN HIS SUPPORTERS COULD HAVE IMAGINED. THE PACE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS DOES NOT REST SOLELY IN HIS HANDS. THE ANC AND THE OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS MUST GIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS.

PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS ALREADY TAKEN ALMOST ALL THE STEPS TOWARDS DIALOGUE WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE CALLED UPON TO TAKE IN THE EMINENT PERSONS' GROUP NEGOTIATING CONCEPT. ONCE MR MANDELA IS RELEASED, ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE LIFTING OF THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE SAID THAT, BARRING ANY VIOLENCE SURROUNDING NELSON MANDELA'S RELEASE, THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WOULD BE LIFTED IN A MATTER OF WEEKS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE COULD BE A CONTINUING PROBLEMS IF THE ANC AND OTHERS RETAIN THEIR THREAT OF VIOLENCE. WHAT IS NOW NEEDED IS A RECIPROCAL COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE ANC AND OTHERS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SUSPEND VIOLENCE.

THE ANC HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEIR PREFERENCE IN PRINCIPLE FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. BUT THEIR INITIAL REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S SPEECH WERE CONFUSED AND AMBIGUOUS. WE MUST URGE THEM TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW OFFERED TO BRING ABOUT THE PEACEFUL END OF APARTHEID THROUGH NEGOTIATION. THEY SHOULD ALSO DECLARE UNAMBIGUOUSLY THEIR READINESS TO ENTER THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF A SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE ON ALL SIDES.

WE HAVE DEVOTED A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO PERSUADING PRESIDENT DE KLERK AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO MEET THE EPG CONDITIONS. WE MUST NOW ENSURE THAT THERE IS A MATCHING RESPONSE FROM THE OTHER SIDE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT THIS EFFORT BY USING YOUR INFLUENCE WITH THE ANC AND OTHER BLACK GROUPS.  
ENDS

2. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HURD

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SOUTHERN AFRICA

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