

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCOTO DESKBY 101900Z DUBLIN  
TELNO 62  
OF 101717Z FEBRUARY 90*ac b/c / 7*  
*1A*  
*Ukrainian.*  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T27C/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 TO BE PASSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR. HAUGHEY.

BEGINS

I AM WRITING ABOUT THE RECENT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S SPEECH ON 2 FEBRUARY REPRESENTS A BREAKTHROUGH, PAVING THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW CONSTITUTION. AS AN IMMEDIATE POSITIVE SIGNAL OF SUPPORT FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE, I HAVE INVITED HIM TO VISIT LONDON AND MADE KNOWN THAT IN FUTURE WE WILL NOT DISCOURAGE ACADEMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. I SHALL ALSO INVITE MR MANDELA TO VISIT LONDON WHEN HE IS FREE.

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. WE SHALL BE URGING THOSE WHO HAVE THE MOST INFLUENCE WITH THE ANC AND THE OTHER OPPOSITON GROUPS TO GIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE PROSPECT OF NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SUSPEND VIOLENCE. I HOPE YOU WILL DO THE SAME.

AS YOU WILL KNOWN, WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING IN DUBLIN ON 20 FEBRUARY. THE MINISTERS SHOULD DISCUSS THE RELAXATION OF SOME OF THE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES IMPOSED ON SOUTH AFRICA. PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS ALREADY ALMOST FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IMPOSED ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE. CERTAINLY, IF MR MANDELA IS FREE AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE REMAINING

EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS WILL SOON BE LIFTED HE WILL HAVE MADE PROFOUND AND IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO ACT. I WOULD HOPE WE CAN BEGIN BY LIFTING THE BAN ON INVESTMENT, WHICH IN OUR CASE WAS VOLUNTARY, IN DOING SO, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE LIFTING OF THE BAN IN ITSELF WILL NOT ACT AS A STIMULUS TO NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE JUDGEMENT OF THE MARKET WILL DETERMINE WHETHER NEW INVESTMENT IS FORTHCOMING. THAT WILL REMAIN A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TO REFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE MINISTERS SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER LIFTING OTHER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES, EG THE BAN ON IMPORTS OF KRUGERRANDS, IRON AND STEEL.

SOUTH AFRICA IS DESTINED TO BE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC UNDER YOUR PRESIDENCY. THERE IS NOW A REAL CHANCE OF OPENING THE WAY TO A PEACEFUL END TO APARTHEID THROUGH NEGOTIATION. WE MUST ENSURE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY IS NOT WASTED.

ENDS

2. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HURD

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SOUTHERN AFRICA