

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY  
TO DESKBY 121200Z FCO  
TELNO 85  
OF 120936Z FEBRUARY 90  
INFO IMMEDIATE OTTAWA (FOR SECRETARY 'S OF STATE'S PARTY), BONN,  
INFO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA

MIPT: MANDELA'S RELEASE

1. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A CALL BY THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND ME ON MANDELA IN PRISON BEFORE HIS RELEASE. SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS UNLIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED, I WROTE TO MANDELA BEFORE HIS RELEASE IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

BEGINS

WHEN I WROTE TO YOU LAST YEAR, I EXPLAINED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WORKING TO ACHIEVE YOUR RELEASE AND THAT OF OTHER LONG-TERM SECURITY, THE UN-BANNING OF THE ANC AND OTHER POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEXT OF A CESSATION OF VIOLENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT SHE IS DELIGHTED AT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS THESE GOALS AND, PARTICULARLY, THAT PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS NOW ANNOUNCED HIS FIRM DECISION THAT YOU WILL BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY. MRS THATCHER HAS ASKED ME TO SEND YOU HER BEST WISHES.

ENDS

2. I ADDED THAT THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND I WISHED TO DELIVER A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR KOHL. THE JUSTICE MINISTER HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THIS WAS PASSED TO MANDELA BEFORE HIS RELEASE.

3. WHEN SAWERS (FIRST SECRETARY) SAW MANDELA BRIEFLY THIS MORNING AND PASSED TO HIM THE GREETINGS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, MANDELA ASKED FOR HIS BEST WISHES TO BE PASSED TO ME AND SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO AN EARLY MEETING.

4. GIVEN THE CONDITIONS AROUND MANDELA AT PRESENT AND THE LIKELIHOOD

THAT HE WILL GO TO LUSAKA, THIS OBVIOUSLY WILL TAKE TIME TO ARRANGE.  
BUT IT WAS AN ENCOURAGING FIRST REACTION.

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO 10.

RENWICK

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19

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