

PERSONAL

FILE

SRW CAA



Rps with CSP.

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*From the Private Secretary*

19 May 1989

Thank you for your letter of 27 April enclosing the paper about the Mells Park Conference. I have now been able to look at this more thoroughly.

Generally I agree with much of the analysis in your record, and with the picture it gives of F. W. de Klerk. His public statements are encouraging. It is also very useful to be kept so well informed of your contacts with the ANC. I think in the past you have also been kind enough to keep the Foreign Office in touch, and I am sure that Lynda Chalker would find it very useful to have a further talk with you. As you know, she follows all these matters very closely.

The most interesting point is F. W. de Klerk's apparent offer of "talks about talks". This would certainly be a step in the right direction and one which we have constantly urged on the South African government. But the Prime Minister remains convinced that there is no role for us as an honest broker. As I explained to you when we met, we are maintaining, indeed increasing, contacts with all parties within South Africa itself and encouraging them to work for and prepare for negotiations. But we continue to feel that any attempt to play a direct role from outside would be unwelcome and that it is for the various parties in South Africa themselves to sort out these problems. Of course we will give help and encouragement along the lines which I explained to you. But we do not want to intervene directly.

I do hope that you will continue to keep me informed about progress.

(C. D. POWELL)

Michael Young, Esq.

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