

9.
1630
Ambassador
informed
CR

PRIME MINISTER

SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR

As you know, the South African Ambassador is shortly to leave his post and will fight the elections in South Africa.

He telephoned me this morning to say that he had never met you. He wondered whether you would agree to see him for just 15 minutes before he left the UK (on 13 February), to enable him to convey two or three thoughts. He would not give any publicity at all to the meeting. He had not asked through the FCO because he expected to be snubbed.

A brief meeting would acknowledge his role and be an opportunity to say that some early movement forward on Mandela and on reform generally after the elections is essential.

We could squeeze him in at tea-time next Tuesday.

Agree to see him on these conditions?

Yes

He also asked to bring his wife. I am not sure what you would feel about this.

Yes
not

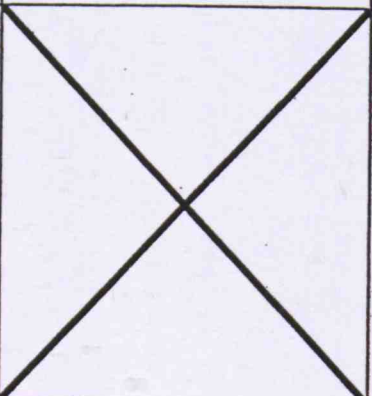
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CHARLES POWELL
4 February 1987

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