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FM LAGOS (AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 13 JULY)
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ADVANCE COPY

APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA FROM OBASANJO.

1. I HAVE RECEIVED FROM GENERAL OBASANJO, FORMER NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE, A LETTER DATED 13 JULY ENCLOSING TWO ENVELOPES, ONE SEALED AND ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT BOTHA (BUT ALSO A COPY FOR OUR INFORMATION) AND THE FOTHER UNSEALED AND ADDRESSED TO MRS THATCHER. THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT BOTHA APPEALS F THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY AND THAT TO MRS THATCHER ASKS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT. TEXTS OF BOTH LETTERS IN MY TWO IFT S. THE ORIGINALS OF BOTH LETTERS FOLLOW BY UNCLASSIFIED BAG CLOSING 14 JULY.

2. IN HIS COVERING LETTER TO ME OBASANJO ASKS THAT I "FORWARD BOTH LETTERS TO THEIR DESTINATION IN TIME TO SERVE THE PURPOSE THEY ARE MEANT TO SERVE", AND SAYS THAT HE IS TRAVELLING TO BRIONI IN YUGOSLAVIA ON SATURDAY 16 JULY AND TELLS ME HOW TO REACH HIM WITH ANY REPLY OR RESPONSE BEFORE THEN, OR OTHERWISE TO DO SO AFTER HIS RETURN TO NIGERIA BY FRIDAY 22 JULY.

HEAP

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MR FAIRWEATHER
NO 10 DOWNING STREET

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