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MIPT: APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

TEXT OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER

BEGINS

1. DEAR PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE TODAY, SENT A PERSONAL APPEAL TO PRESIDENT P W BOTHA FOR THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY. A COPY OF THE LETTER IS ATTACHED HERETO. THE APPEAL IS PERSONAL AND IS MADE ONLY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF COMMON HUMANITY.

2. LIKE WITH MR BOTHA, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF INTERACTING WITH YOU AND THOUGH WE CANNOT BE SAID TO SHARE IN TOTALITY A COALITION OF VIEWS ON SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA, YET ONE CANNOT BUT RESPECT YOUR APPARENT SINCERITY AND FORTHRIGHTNESS

I HOPE YOU WILL BRING THESE QUALITIES OF YOURS TO BEAR ON THE ISSUE OF MANDELA'S RELEASE IN THE NAME OF COMMON DECENCY. I THEREFORE HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND SPACE IN YOUR HEART TO JOIN THIS APPEAL FOR MANDELA'S RELEASE AS I KNOW YOU HAVE DONE ON OTHER OCCASION AND USE THE IMMENSE INFLUENCE AT YOUR DISPOSAL AS A RESPECTED LEADER OF ONE OF THE GREAT NATIONS OF THE FREE WORLD TO INFLUENCE MR P W BOTHA'S MIND ON THE SUBJECT AND TO SEEK THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER LEADERS OF THE WORLD ON MR P W BOTHA

REGARDS

YOURS SINCERELY O OBASANJO, GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

ENDS

HEAP

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PS

MR FAIRWEATHER

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

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