

RESTRICTED

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 July 1988

Dear Charles,

General Obasanjo

x You will recall the Lagos telegrams forwarding messages from Obasanjo to the Prime Minister and to President Botha. As we agreed, Mr Renwick passed the latter to President Botha's office on 15 July.

/ I attach a self-explanatory draft reply from the Prime Minister to Obasanjo.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification RESTRICTED	Caveat	Precedence PRIORITY
ZCZC TC CAVEAT FM TO TELNO OF AND TO	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	ZCZC RESTRICTED FM FCO TO PRIORITY LAGOS TELNO OF 211200Z JULY 88 INFO ROUTINE PRETORIA YOUR TELNO 771: APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA FROM OBASANJO 1. Grateful if you would pass the following reply from the Prime Minister to General Obasanjo. 2. BEGINS. Thank you for your letter of 13 July about Mr Nelson Mandela. I appreciated hearing from you, as I had been disappointed not to see you during my short visit to Nigeria in January. I immediately arranged for your letter to President Botha to be passed to him by our Ambassador in Pretoria. We have long called for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr Mandela. As you may have heard, the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on behalf of the Government on the eve of Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday renewing our call for Mr Mandela's release. We believe that his release is crucial to the prospects for peaceful change within South Africa. It would be an important gesture of reconciliation by the South African Government and would help to create a climate of confidence in which dialogue across the racial divide on South Africa's		
		Catchword:		
		File number VC2AAU	Dept SAFD	Drafted by (Block capitals) R J DALTON
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2 future would become possible in the context of a suspension of
3 violence on all sides. *with best wishes*
4 ENDS
5 3. The agreement on principles to underline an Angola/Namibia
6 settlement (guidance to follow) highlights the need for progress
7 on internal reconciliation if a settlement is to stick. When
8 you ~~next~~ see Obasanjo you should encourage him to persevere *in*
9 his efforts.
10 4. There will be no (no) signed original.

11 HOWE

12 YYYY

13 MAIN

14 LIMITED

15 SAFD

16 WAD

17 PS

18 PS/MRS CHALKER

19 MR FAIRWEATHER

20 ADDITIONAL

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