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CAP

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 January 1990

Prime Minister

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to say with

to see

CB

SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Denis Worrall came to see me this morning. I imagine much of what he said to me only repeated what he had told the Foreign Secretary and I will not bother to record it in any detail. The three points which particularly struck me were:

- He thought expectations of Mandela's imminent release were a bit exaggerated. He expected De Klerk, in his speech on 2 February, to announce the end of the State of Emergency but not to unban the ANC until they had given more serious evidence of their willingness to engage seriously in negotiations. He would probably say that Mandela would in due course be released but there was little point in his coming out until the necessary steps had been taken to permit the unbanning of the ANC. In practice he thought Mandela would be released by Easter. He added that his colleague Wynnard Malan had recently seen Mandela who had been absolutely clear that he now wanted to leave prison.
- Worrall said that the allegations about the existence of a South African hit squad were very serious indeed and there would be more revelations about it this weekend. He thought De Klerk had made a serious error of judgement in not establishing an independent inquiry, and this would now rebound against him. The reason for the decision not to do so was almost certainly that some senior Ministers, including Pik Botha and the Defence Minister, were directly involved in the affair. The inquiry would also probably lead to the exposure of details of involvement with Renamo.
- He thought Britain could play an important facilitating role in South Africa, to help overcome the many obstacles and road blocks that would be encountered in trying to get negotiations started. A visit by the Prime Minister would have a very important role to play here. He hoped that she would use such a visit not just to meet the South African Government but also representatives of all the main political parties and racial groups. It was important that

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the future of South Africa should not appear to become the exclusive preserve of the South African Government and the ANC.

(C.D. POWELL)

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