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Foreign Affairs. ECU

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

22 January 1990

SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your letter of 22 January recommending that we should accept Chancellor Kohl's proposal that he and the Prime Minister should issue a joint invitation to Nelson Mandela, once he is released, to visit the FRG and the United Kingdom.

I have discussed this with the Prime Minister, who agrees that it is a better way to proceed than an invitation from her alone. I have told Herr Teltschik that we are ready in principle to fall in with this proposal, and suggested that we discuss the details, and other action we might take in response to Mandela's release, when we next meet. Teltschik claims to have information that Mandela could be released this week or next, and is anxious to settle the details as soon as possible. He suggests that the Embassy be briefed to talk to Weberschaer in the Federal Chancellery. Although I am sceptical about the likelihood of Mandela being released so soon, I agree that the Embassy should talk to the Federal Chancellery. I should be grateful if you could arrange for them to be briefed accordingly.

(CHARLES POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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LL



Prime Minister

cel. p

Agree no call to Germans letter

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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you would be

22 January 1990

ready to issue an invitation to Mandela - after his release -

Dear Charles, jointly with Chancellor Kohl? It might help help the Germans aboard.

South Africa

Asar

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Thank you for your letter of 16 January. We have amended the paper on our possible response to Nelson Mandela's release in accordance with the Prime Minister's comments.

Agreed

When Nelson Mandela is released, we shall face questions about whether the Prime Minister is going to South Africa or whether she will meet Mr Mandela here. The Foreign Secretary agrees that for us alone to launch an invitation to Mr Mandela to come here immediately on his release could simply look opportunist and could even risk a rebuff. It would anyway be surprising if Mr Mandela emerges after a quarter of a century in jail fully ready to enter the political fray and to undertake international engagements. But Mr Hurd thinks there would be some advantages in Chancellor Kohl's approach. For a start, there are obvious Anglo/German benefits in being seen publicly to cooperate in this way. Secondly, a joint invitation would be more likely to get a positive response. Quite a lot of Mr Mandela's ANC advisers would urge him to turn down an invitation to visit Britain. He is less likely to turn down a joint invitation. A joint Anglo/German statement might say that the Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl had for a long time been working together to press the case for reform and for Mr Mandela's release; they hoped Mr Mandela's release would lead to early negotiations; they would welcome an early opportunity to hear from Mr Mandela himself what his plans were, etc. Such a statement would obviously be accompanied by a private contact with Mr Mandela by our Ambassadors in South Africa to prepare the ground.

We do not think President de Klerk's nose would be put out of joint by such a statement. He will shortly receive from Sir Robin Renwick the Prime Minister's invitation to talks if comes to Europe in April. He is likely to have responded to that invitation before Mr Mandela is released. It should not be difficult to arrange for Mr de Klerk to visit London before Mr Mandela, whose priority when he is released is likely to be to hold meetings in South Africa and with the ANC in Lusaka.

Our plan of action already included briefing the Germans in advance. You may wish to have a word with Teltschik and to brief him in greater detail on our thinking.

I think we must let de Klerk know

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as soon as we can after Mandela's release



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I am copying this letter to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

*Yours,
Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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S. AFRIKA: Welkom! Ptz.