

CONFIDENTIAL



file 16
c.1. South
cc to PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 February 1990

SOUTH AFRICA

You will have seen Capetown telegram No. 039 giving details of the speech which President de Klerk will make later this morning. I enclose:

- a statement which the No. 10 Press Office intend to make at 1100;
- a message which the Prime Minister has signed to President de Klerk. This should be flashed to Capetown for delivery as soon as possible.

CHARLES POWELL

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

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 118/90



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OPS CC MASTER
SUBJECT

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc RCO
PC

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 February 1990

Dear Mr. President.

I would like you to know how strongly I welcome the decision you have taken to release Mr Nelson Mandela unconditionally. I have long been convinced that this step is crucial to unblocking the way to negotiations on a new, democratic constitution for South Africa.

I also very much welcome the other very important steps which you have taken towards lifting the state of emergency and the unbanning of the ANC and other organisations. These are major steps forward. They should open the way for negotiations to be engaged in which all parties will be able to participate peacefully. If the ANC agree to take part in negotiations on that basis, I hope that the remaining emergency restrictions could be lifted. We for our part will be encouraging a policy of contacts with South Africa, and will consider what further steps we can take when Mr Mandela is free.

It is an historic day and I send you very warm congratulations on your courageous speech. I understand that you are to visit Europe in May. If so, I should be very glad to welcome you to a meeting at Chequers on 19 May.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

The Honourable F. W. de Klerk, D.M.S.

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PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S SPEECH:
PRESS STATEMENT

bc: FCO
PC

We warmly welcome the decision to release Mr Mandela. This is an historic landmark on the road to a new South Africa. We have long urged the South African Government to set him free. President de Klerk is to be congratulated on his decision.

Mr Mandela will have a major role to play in shaping his country's future. His release will give an opportunity for all parties in South Africa to make progress towards a peaceful solution, through negotiations on a constitution fair to the whole population. We encourage them to do so.

The South African Government has taken major steps to open the way to start negotiations in accordance with the negotiating concept proposed by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group. We look to the ANC and other groups to respond positively and peacefully to the offer now being made to join in negotiations to work out a new constitution for South Africa.

The changes now taking place in South Africa vindicate a policy of contact rather than isolation. We do not see that cultural, scientific or academic boycotts make sense or contribute to the weakening of apartheid. In future we shall not discourage artists, scientists and academics from going to South Africa or from joining in meetings with South Africans. We hope that individuals will take advantage of such opportunities to promote dialogue among South Africans. We shall consider further positive steps as soon as Mr Mandela is released.

The Prime Minister looks forward to having an early opportunity of discussing these encouraging developments with both President de Klerk and Mr Mandela. She has invited President de Klerk to an early meeting at Chequers. She will similarly invite Mr Mandela to make a visit to the United Kingdom when he is free.