

CONFIDENTIAL / DE 010

File

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DEDIP
FM CAPE TOWN
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 43
OF 021130Z FEBRUARY 90
AND TO FLASH BONN

*Pl. file.
can.*

MANDELA: MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR KOHL

1. THE DRAFT MESSAGE TO MANDELA NEEDS SOME MINOR AMENDMENTS TO CORRESPOND WITH DE KLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENT. STABREIT AND I HAVE AGREED TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING TEXT:

'WE ARE ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS THAT YOU WILL BE UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASED. AS YOU WILL KNOW, THIS IS A GOAL FOR WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS, WE PERSONALLY, AND MANY OTHERS IN BRITAIN AND THE FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC, HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD. IT IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICA THAT THE OPPORTUNITY CREATED BY YOUR RELEASE SHOULD BE BUILT ON TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE TO WORK OUT A NEW, JUST AND DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION FOR SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY WHAT WE HAVE HEARD OF YOUR OWN COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND CLEARLY THERE COULD BE NO GREATER PROZE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. WE SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER ISSUES WITH YOU AND WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOU TO VISIT BRITAIN AND THE FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC ONCE YOU ARE RELEASED.'

2. I TOLD STABREIT THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY FOR US TO ARRANGE FOR THIS TO BE DELIVERED TO MANDELA VIA THE JUSTICE MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON. AT THE SAME TIME WE COULD ASK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT CALL ON MANDELA.

3. STABREIT, HAVING CONSULTED UBERSCHAUER, HAS SAID THAT THE GERMANS DO NOT WANT TO GO AHEAD IMMEDIATELY OR PUBLICISE THE MESSAGE AS THEY FEAR THE POSSIBILITY OF A REBUFF, IE AN INDICATION THAT MANDELA MIGHT NOT WANT TO VISIT GERMANY. THE CHANCELLERY WANT US INSTEAD TO WRITE TO THE JUSTICE MINISTER ASKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT CALL ON MANDELA TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE. I RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD GO ALONG WITH THIS - THE MORE SO AS WE HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT

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MANDELA WILL BE INVITED TO VISIT BRITAIN WHEN HE IS FREE. WE WILL BOTH WRITE TO COETSEE THIS AFTERNOON. WE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE REQUESTING A CALL. I SHALL PRESS HARD BUT, AS YOU WILL REALISE THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT THIS WILL BE AGREED BEFORE HIS RELEASE.

4. PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO. 10: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE: PS/MR WALDEGRAVE: TOMKYS AND HEAD SAFD.

RENWICK

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