

a c/r

PA (uk suppc)

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO

TO DESKBY 101900Z OTTAWA

TELNO 97

OF 101651Z FEBRUARY 90

AND TO DESKBY 110001Z CANBERRA

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T27B/90

SUBJECT cc MASTER
cc OPS

FROM RESIDENT CLERK

SOUTH AFRICA: RELEASE OF MANDELA

1. FOLLOWING THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTENDED RELEASE OF MANDELA, GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ARRANGE FOR THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY/PRIME MINISTER HAWKE TO BE DELIVERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS:

I AM WRITING ABOUT THE RECENT ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S SPEECH ON 2 FEBRUARY REPRESENTS A BREAKTHROUGH PAVING THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW CONSTITUTION TO BEGIN. AS AN IMMEDIATE POSITIVE SIGNAL OF MY APPROVAL, I HAVE INVITED HIM TO VISIT IN MAY AND MADE KNOWN THAT IN FUTURE WE WILL ENCOURAGE ACADEMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

IN TAKING THESE STEPS, PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS TAKEN CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL RISKS. HE HAS MOVED FURTHER AND FASTER THAN HIS SUPPORTERS COULD HAVE IMAGINED. THE PACE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS DOES NOT REST SOLELY IN HIS HANDS. WE SHAL BE URGING THOSE WHO HAVE THE MOST INFLUENCE WITH THE ANC AND THE OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS TO GIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE PROSPECT OF NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SUSPEND VIOLENCE. WE HOPE YOU WILL DO THE SAME.

I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT DE KLERK SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS PEOPLE THAT THE BOLD INITIATIVE HE HAS NOW TAKEN HAS MERITED SOME REWARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WITH THE PROMISE OF MORE TO FOLLOW WHEN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN. WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, THE LITMUS TEST WE HAVE APPLIED IS ACCEPTANCE OF THE EPG NEGOTIATING CONCEPT. BY HIS RECENT MOVES, PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS COME VERY CLOSE TO MEETING THE PRE-CONDITIONS WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS CALLED UPON TO MAKE.

ONCE MR MANDELA IS FREE AND THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ARE LIFTED, THE WAY WILL BE CLEAR TO CONSIDER A RELAXATION OF MEASURES. PROGRESS OF THIS MAGNITUDE DESERVES ACKNOWLEDGMENT. AS A FIRST STEP, WE WILL BE PROPOSING A LIFTING OF THE BAN ON NEW INVESTMENT, WHICH IN OUR CASE WAS VOLUNTARY, WITH OUR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PARTNERS. WE WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO LIFT OUR VOLUNTARY BAN ON THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM TO SOUTH AFRICA.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT AT CHOGM, WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WILL NOW EXAMINE HOW RESOURCES MIGHT BE MOBILISED TO HELP A FUTURE SOUTH AFRICA. ONCE TALKS BEGIN ON A NEW CONSTITUTION, SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE FACILITIES OF INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE IMF AND IBRD. IT WILL NEED ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN OVERCOMING THE DISTORTIONS OF APARTHEID AND IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE POORER MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION.

A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH IS REQUIRED TO ENCOURAGE THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO PERSEVERE WITH THE DIFFICULT TASK OF NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT DE KLERK HAS OPENED THE DOOR TO A MAJOR PRIZE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS - A PEACEFUL END TO APARTHEID THROUGH NEGOTIATION.
ENDS

2. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HURD

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