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FM PRETORIA  
TO DESKBY 230830Z FCO  
TELNO 466  
OF 230805Z NOVEMBER 90

**ADVANCE COPY**

PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

1. PRESIDENT DE KLERK SENT TO ME LAST NIGHT A PERSONAL MESSAGE (TEXT IN PARA 3 BELOW) FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. DE KLERK SAID THAT HE HAD WRITTEN THIS JUST BEFORE RECEIVING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO HIM. SOUTH AFRICA OWED A GREAT DEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THAT WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN. DE KLERK SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT.
2. MANDELA MADE A POSITIVE STATEMENT TO THE BBC, SAYING THAT THE ANC HAD MUCH TO THANK THE PRIME MINISTER FOR EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD DISAGREED ON STRATEGY OVER ENDING APARTHEID. BUTHELEZI, HELEN SUZMAN AND HARRY OPPENHEIMER ALSO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH. I HAVE PASSED ON TO THEM AND TO MANDELA THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL REGARDS.
3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF DE KLERK'S MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

DEAR MRS THATCHER

MY WIFE AND I HAVE LEARNT WITH SADNESS OF YOUR DECISION TO RELINQUISH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH CARRIES WITH IT THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT, WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS, YOU ARE VERY MUCH IN OUR THOUGHTS AT WHAT MUST BE FOR YOU A PERIOD OF GREAT PAIN AND DISAPPOINTMENT.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH YOU ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST OVER A LONG PERIOD HAS BEEN INVALUABLE TO ME. OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS CHARACTERIZED BY MUTUAL RESPECT, TRUST AND WARMTH. MORE THAN THAT, I APPRECIATE THE FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING THAT GREW BETWEEN US.

I PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU FOR THE ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED DURING YOUR TENURE OF OFFICE IN PROMOTING RATIONAL POLICIES TOWARDS SOUTH

AFRICA BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE COMMONWEALTH. YOUR FAITH THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA WOULD FIND A JUST ACCOMMODATION AND YOUR COURAGE IN STANDING BY YOUR CONVICTIONS HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO ME PERSONALLY AND TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

I KNOW THAT YOUR PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, EUROPE AND THE WORLD IS ASSURED. YOUR STAND ON PRINCIPLE, STEADFASTNESS AND YOUR VISION WILL REMAIN AN EXAMPLE FOR WORLD LEADERS.

IN APPRECIATION

SINCERELY

F W DE KLERK

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RENWICK

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