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TO: SAC, HOUSTON [redacted]

Date: 7/10/89

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FROM: LS [redacted]  
ALS [redacted]

SUBJECT: NEWS MEDIA ARTICLES  
RE SOUTH AFRICA

THIS ENTIRE COMMUNICATION IS CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~.

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Attached and to be considered part of this memo is a copy of an article which appeared in the July 9, 1989 issue of the "Houston Post". The article reports on a meeting which took place secretly last week between State President P.W. Botha and imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela. The article states that the meeting has led to speculation that Mandela will be released soon.

The article is provided for information.

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EXEMPTION CODE: 25X(1)  
DATE 05-15-2014 BY F54M93K42

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- (S) 1-Each [redacted] matters SA

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Mandela-509

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A-8 / The Houston Post / Sunday, July 9, 1989 ★★

## NATION & WORLD

# Meeting increases speculation Mandela will be released soon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The government said Saturday that President P.W. Botha met with Nelson Mandela last week, increasing speculation the jailed black guerrilla leader will be freed before Botha leaves office in September.

The 45-minute meeting at Botha's official residence in Cape Town on Wednesday was the first time the two are known to have met.

Government-run television reported that Foreign Minister Pik Botha "saw this as an event of the utmost contemporary importance."

The television quoted Pik Botha as saying the meeting had positive implications which would benefit all people in South Africa. "The foreign minister is not related to the president.

But Mandela's lawyer, Ismail Ayob, said, "I don't think it would mean anything like that unless a statement was made to that effect. I have no idea why the meeting took place. It could be Mr. Botha believes there is some benefit to him or the National Party or he may have wanted to hear Mr. Mandela's views."

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee, who attended the meeting, said Mandela's "courtesy visit" was conducted in a "pleasant spirit."

Coetsee said no policy matters were debated and no negotiations were conducted, but that the two men availed themselves of the opportunity to confirm their support for peaceful development in South Africa.



**BOTHA:**  
Secret meeting

ca." Spokesmen for Coetsee would not say why the meeting had been kept secret. It was announced only after a reporter for the independent South African Press Association heard of the meeting and asked about it.

Unheard and unseen by the public since his conviction in 1964 on charges of plotting to overthrow the government, Mandela nevertheless has come to be the most admired leader among South African blacks, who consider him the embodiment of their quest for political freedom.

Mandela, who will be 71 on July 18, stays alone in a prison warden's house at the Victor Verster prison farm in Paarl, north of Cape Town. He is serving a life sentence.

Mandela's lawyer, Ismail Ayob, said Mandela did not mention the meeting with Botha when the attorney visited his client at the prison farm earlier Saturday. "I assume he did not mention it because he may have been asked not to mention it," Ayob said.

Mandela has rejected the government's repeated offers to release him if he renounces violence. He has said the government should renounce violence against blacks, end apartheid and legalize the African National Congress, the largest guerrilla movement fighting the white-dominated government.

The ANC was outlawed in 1960, and the next year Mandela founded its guerrilla wing, Spear of the Nation. He was imprisoned in 1962 for leaving the country illegally and organizing an illegal strike by black workers. In 1964 he was convicted of sabotage and plotting the overthrow of the government and sentenced to life in prison. He is regarded as the leader of the ANC, although the highest office he held before it was banned was deputy president-general.

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(S) TO: SAC, HOUSTON [redacted]

7/18/89

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FROM: LS [redacted]

SUBJECT: NEWS MEDIA ARTICLES  
RE SOUTH AFRICA

*(Handwritten: 43, 86)*

THIS ~~ENTIRE~~ COMMUNICATION IS CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~.

Attached and to be considered part of this memo is a copy and translation of an article which appeared in the May 11, 1989 edition of the Afrikaans-language newspaper, "Beeld."

The article is provided for information.

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- 1-Language Specialists
- (S) 1-Each [redacted] matters SA

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MNR. JAAP MARAIS

## Maggie skryf aan Jaap oor Mandela

DIE vrylating van die ANC-leier mnr. Nelson Mandela sal die internasionale gemeenskap se houding jeens Suid-Afrika baie laat verander, skryf die Britse premier, mev. Margaret Thatcher, in 'n brief aan mnr. Jaap Marais, leier van die ~~Herstigte Nasionale Party.~~

Mev. Thatcher het gereageer op 'n brief wat mnr. Marais op 23 Maart aan haar geskryf het.

Sy sê die vrylating van mnr. Mandela sal 'n klimaat van vertroue skep waarin gesprekvoering kan plaasvind. Haar beroep om dié vrylating van mnr. Mandela is nie bemoeienis met Suid-Afrika se huis-houdelike aangeleenthede nie.

Die onvoorwaardelike vrylating van mnr. Mandela is 'n sleutel tot die oplossing van Suid-Afrika se probleme. Grondwetlike veranderinge moet deur Suid-

Afrikaners self uitgewerk word. Dit kan nie deur buitestaanders gedoen word nie, skryf sy.

Dat die ANC 'n kantoor in Londen het, beteken nie die Britse regering steun dié organisasie nie. Die Britse regering sal nie huiwer om op te tree teen enigiemand wat wette in Brittanje oortree nie.

Mev. Thatcher skryf sy het in 'n onderhoud met Beeld in November verlede jaar gesê verandering in Suid-Afrika is moontlik. Trouens, dit is onafwendbaar.

Dit sal wilskrag en moed verg om van die verlede weg te breek. Tensy daar 'n bereidwilligheid is om dit te doen, bestaan die gevaar dat die probleme 'n mens kan oorweldig.

Dit is nóg in Suid-Afrika nóg in die internasionale gemeenskap - wat beslis Brittanje insluit - se belang dat dit gebeur.

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MAGGIE WRITES TO JAAP ABOUT MANDELA

The release of the ANC leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela, will greatly change the international community's attitude toward South Africa, writes the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, in a letter to Mr. Jaap Marais, leader of the Reformed National Party.

Mrs. Thatcher reacted to a letter which Mr. Marais wrote to her on March 23.

She says the release of Mr. Mandela will create a climate of trust in which discussions can take place. Her call for the release of Mr. Mandela is not meddling with South Africa's domestic affairs.

The unconditional release of Mr. Mandela is a key to the solution of South Africa's problems. Constitutional changes must be worked out by South Africans themselves. It cannot be done by outsiders, she writes.

That the ANC has an office in London does not mean the British government supports the organization. The British government will not hesitate to act against anyone who transgresses laws in Britain.

Mrs. Thatcher writes she said in an interview with Beeld in November last year that change in South Africa is possible. In fact, it is inevitable.

It will require will power and courage to break from the past. Unless there is a willingness to do it, the possibility exists that the problems can overwhelm.

It is in South Africa's as well as the international community's - which certainly includes Britain - interest that it happens.

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