

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President F.W. de Klerk of South Africa

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President de Klerk of South Africa
Interpreter: None
Notetaker: Robert C. Frasure

DATE, TIME July 11, 1991, 14:04 - 14:14 p.m. EST
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

The President telephoned President de Klerk concerning the removal of sanctions against South Africa. (U)

The President: President de Klerk, how are you? I just wanted to talk with you for a few minutes on the action I took yesterday on lifting sanctions imposed against South Africa. (U)

President de Klerk: We were extremely pleased, and I wanted to thank you personally. (U)

I know you were under a lot of pressure from many sides. You said you would not shift the goalposts, and you did not shift them. We are highly pleased. (U)

The President: I appreciate your comments. Your able ambassador previously thanked me for our support during a function we had at the White House yesterday. He expressed your thanks and appreciation for my lifting of sanctions. (U)

Secretary Baker will inform Nick Brady that the five Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act conditions have been met. This will also end the provisions of the so-called "Rangel Amendment" which resulted in double taxation of American companies in South Africa. So this in turn should help the economic side and that will be good for you. (U)

We'll talk more on the other sanctions and the IMF and World Bank and others. We're ready to talk at any time and place about this. (U)

President de Klerk: Thank you. In my public statement I said we were extremely pleased about the taxation. (U)

We are concerned about IMF. It is one of the stumbling blocks in our way. We will need to talk about it. (U)

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The President: I talked to Nelson Mandela on my actions on sanctions and although he and I disagreed, I must say he was real polite about it. But lifting sanctions was a thing whose time had come. (S)

Mr. President, there is one thing that I would mention and that is the Bophuthatswana political prisoners. Some people even in my government think we should have waited awhile on lifting sanctions because of them. I'm taking some hits on that. We had some internal differences in our own government on this one. (S)

I wanted you to be aware that we're concerned about the 150 or so people in Bophuthatswana and other homelands, and I would ask for your consideration. No, it's not a part of the sanctions, but I just wanted to raise this with you. (S)

President de Klerk: It is a problem, the situation in Bophuthatswana. (U)

You are on firm grounds with the ANC! They agreed with us that it is not our responsibility. I said although it is not our responsibility we are prepared to use our good offices. And we will do so. I will convey your concerns to President Mangope. I will be in touch with him this weekend. You should tell your ambassador to convey your concerns as well. (S)

You have my assurances that we want to lessen tension. I will try to do it over this weekend. (S)

You know the ANC is ambivalent about all of this. They see Boputhatswana to be part of South Africa but they recognize Transkei and use it. The ANC should talk to President Mangope too. (S)

The President: I appreciate that. On sanctions, again, I did this with great enthusiasm, and it was something whose time had come. (S)

President de Klerk: Thank you. May I say I have no doubt that what you have done is of great assistance to South Africa. And it has consequences for all of southern Africa, for the entire region. (S)

Things are going well in Angola and Mozambique. (U)

You know South Africa is the entry point to the economy of the region. The lifting of sanctions will benefit all in southern Africa. A strong South African economy will be a new start. (U)

The President: I think that is a good way to look at it and good luck and thank you and my respects to you and your wife. (U)

President de Klerk: Thank you. (U)

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The President: I'm upstairs in Kennebunkport and just about to sit down with Prime Minister Kaifu, and Barbara is here. I'm looking out on a beautiful day overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and it is a beautiful day although I can't see South Africa from here! (U)

President de Klerk: May I ask in conclusion if I could issue a short press statement saying that we talked? If you have no objection to that? (U)

The President: I have no objection to a short statement on the phone call. You can include something like, "the President of the United States supported the lifting of sanctions, and we agreed to continue discussions on South Africa." (U)

President de Klerk: Good. Thank you. (U)

The President: Good luck and goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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