



PRIME MINISTER

30/92

MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT DE KLERK AND DR NELSON MANDELA

The following are texts of messages sent today by the Prime Minister to President F W De Klerk and Dr Nelson Mandela following the recent South African referendum on political reform.

Message to President De Klerk

I would like to express to you personally my pleasure, and that of the people of Australia, at the outstanding result in the March 17 referendum. The overwhelming 'yes' vote, as well as the unprecedented voter turnout, put beyond doubt the wish of white South Africans to see the reform process continued.

The vote is also a singular tribute to your own courage and perseverance and to that of the others on all sides of South African politics who have been involved in initiating and pursuing the historic reforms which are now underway in your country.

Australians have been watching with great interest - and not a little dismay given their winning form - the exploits of your cricketers in the World Cup series. It has been a welcome reminder for us all of the benefits of South Africa's return to full participation in the international community.

I am sure the referendum result will have greatly improved the prospects for progress at the next meeting of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. I am confident that continued progress towards the adoption of a democratic non-racial constitution will permit further early moves towards the full restoration of commercial and economic relations between our two countries.

Message to Dr Mandela

I shared your relief and satisfaction at the result of the March 17 referendum. It is encouraging to know that the great majority of the white population in South Africa appreciates the urgent need for reform, and supports the historic process on which you, President de Klerk and other South African leaders are embarked.

I am sure the referendum result will have greatly improved the prospects for progress at the next meeting of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. I am confident that continued progress towards the adoption of a democratic non-racial constitution will permit further early moves towards the full restoration of commercial and economic relations between our two countries.

I wish you and your colleagues well as you enter what we all hope will be the final stages in the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a truly democratic and non-racial South Africa.

CANBERRA
20 March 1992