



Release

Date: February 10, 1990

For release: Immediate

**PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY
WELCOMES ANNOUNCED RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA**

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney today expressed his profound pleasure at the announcement that Nelson Mandela would be released unconditionally tomorrow.

"This is a time of tremendous joy for the people of South Africa, the people of Canada and for people all around the world who have worked so long and so hard for his release. We rejoice in the knowledge that Nelson Mandela will at last be reunited with his family and with his people, whose bond with him and his ideals has remained steadfast over so many years".

The Prime Minister noted that Canada had consistently called for, and joined with others in exerting pressure in order to seek, the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela. He commended President de Klerk for making this possible. But he said the process of freeing Nelson Mandela from jail and freeing South Africa from apartheid cannot be separated. He said that it was a tribute to Nelson Mandela that the unbanning of African National Congress and the removal of a number of other obstacles to a negotiated settlement preceded his release. He said that we now hope for the quick removal of the remaining obstacles, notably the complete lifting of the State of Emergency, so that negotiations can begin. The Prime Minister said that negotiations represent the only path to justice and peace for all South Africans.