

Office of the
Prime Minister



Cabinet du
Premier ministre

Release

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Prime Minister Brian Mulroney sent today the following letter to Nelson Mandela.

"It is with tremendous joy that I extend to you on behalf of the people of Canada our warmest greetings and best wishes on your day of freedom.

We rejoice in the knowledge that you are now reunited with your family after so many long years apart. We share in the jubilation of the South African people, whose bond with you and your ideals has never wavered throughout these dark years. We celebrate with the world that your freedom from prison today may soon lead to the freedom of all South Africans from the injustice of apartheid.

Your freedom has unleashed great hopes and expectations. These will add to the heavy load you and other leaders must shoulder on the road to a new South Africa. Please know that Canada shares your commitment and that of all South Africans to the peaceful dismantling of apartheid and the creation of a non-racial democracy in South Africa. We stand ready to assist whenever and however needed.

I look forward to being able to meet with you soon. On behalf of the Canadian Government and people, I would like to invite you to visit Canada at your earliest opportunity.

I wish you strength and Godspeed in the important task ahead."