

# News Release

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## THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### URGES RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today urged the South African Government, on the occasion of Nelson Mandela's seventieth birthday, to grant his unconditional release and that of all political prisoners.

Nelson Mandela's imprisonment is an important symbol of the black majority's lack of political freedom in South Africa. Nelson Mandela's release would signal a willingness on the part of the South African Government to accept the prospect of a non-racial democratic future for South Africa.

Mr. Clark echoed the sentiments expressed in Prime Minister Mulroney's birthday greetings to Nelson Mandela, adding that a free Nelson Mandela would enhance the prospects for a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems. Such a solution can only be achieved through meaningful negotiations with Nelson Mandela and other black leaders.

Mr. Clark expressed the hope that the South African Government would not prevent the birthday celebrations planned in South Africa and would release the detained members of the Mandela Birthday Committee.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
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