

: By JOHN OAKES

MRS THATCHER has
~agreed to give aid to
~ Nelson Mandelaâ\200\231s African
'National Congress.

- The amazing about-turn fol-
lows an appeal to the Prime
Minister at a private meeting
| with black Labour MP Berme

Grani. : ;

â\200\234And Mrs Thatcher will have
her chance to make her offer
personally to the ANCâ\200\231s
â\200\230leader when he visits Britain
at Easter.

In the past, Mrs Thatcher
has condemned the ANC as a
terrorist organisation. Her
â\200\230stance has changed since the
South African government
_ lifted its ban on the ANC and
released its leader.

When they meet next
month, Mr Mandela is expec-
ted to tell her that Britain
can help his . organisation
prepare itself for a full and
peaceful political role in
South Africaâ\200\231s future. :

In their first personal talk
since Mr Grant entered Par-
liament, the controversial MP
for Tottenham asked Mrs
Thatcher for â\200\230modestâ\200\231 train-
.ing and equipment assistance
for the ANC.

Last week she responded in
a letter to the MP, saying: â\200\230I
agree that there is a case for
practical assistance to those
who have previously been
excluded from the political
process. | hope it will be
possible to establish a scheme
soon.â\200\231

At their meeting, Mr Grant
told Mrs Thatcher that most
blacks perceived Britain as
being 100 per cent behind de
Klerk and suggested she did
â\200\230something really positiveâ\200\231 to
change her image.:

Last night he said: I amâ\200\231
very pleased to get such a
favourable response.â\200\231 =

â\200\230Mr Mandela is to be
~offered the freedom of the

borough of Brent when he
~arrives in London for a
Wembley concert in his hon-
our next month.