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AWE P AA . Association Of West European Parliamentarian:
for Action against Apartheid

STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

AWEPA welcomes the actual release of Nelson Mandela, 9 days after the announcement by South African President de Klerk, as a major success in the struggle for final dismantling of apartheid and a positive step in the process of creating a suitable climate for fruitful negotiations on the abolition of apartheid.

It is still necessary that the South African government takes some further steps in accordance with the demands, repeatedly put forward by both the South African opposition and by the international community, like the European Community (in its 1986 statement) and the General Assembly of the United Nations, (in its unanimously adopted-resolution of December 14, 1989). This means amongst others:

- . the release of all political prisoners and detainees, without imposing any restrictions on them after their release.
- . the complete lifting of the State of Emergency in all its aspects, and the repeal of all other legislation, circumscribing political activity, such as the Internal Security Act;
- . allowing political activities without further restrictions by all organisations and persons proscribed/restricted thus far
- . removal of all troops from the townships;
- . the abolition of the practice of detention without trial
- . full abolishment of media restrictions, including the ban on pictures of "unrest situations" on TV

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- . abolition of the 'homelands' policy, including forced removals of people to and forced incorporation of areas into 'homelands'
 - . abolition of the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act and the Land Act .

Consistent pressure on South Africa by the world community, in the diplomatic, military, economic, sports and cultural fields has contributed to the current achievements, which are primarily the result of the resistance of the South African population against apartheid.

AWEPA fully agrees with Mr. Mandela's call on the international community to continue the campaign to isolate the apartheid regime because by lifting sanctions now we would run the risk of aborting the process towards the complete eradication of apartheid.

AWEPA has invited Mr. Mandela to address a meeting in the European Parliament on further action for the transition to a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.
Amsterdam, February 12, 1990

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