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May 21 1989
Dear President

I thought I should drop you a line to update the arrangements for Prof Ronald Dworkin's conference of lawyers about South Africa.

I know that David Astor already discussed it with you when you lunched together; and that you were hoping to spend that weekend having a rest at David's house, where you could also have a relaxed meeting with members of the conference. This is really to confirm and develop that idea.

The plan now is to have the main conference confined to lawyers including the members of the ANC's constitutional committee from Lusaka, Dublin, etc: and to follow the conference with an informal meeting at about 5.0 PM on the Sunday at David's house (which is only three miles from the conference centre), to discuss the broader issues - at which we very much hope that you would be able to address the guests, in relaxed surroundings. The meeting would be followed by a buffet supper for those who could stay.

I know that Thabo Mbeki was hoping also to be in Britain at that time, and we would very much hope that he could join the meeting at David's house.

We will of course provide further details nearer the time. But I wanted to let you know how things stand at present. I think we both agree that the discussion of the rule of law is now specially topical, since the proposals of the Law Commission. At the same time we want to counter any pretence that the proposed law reforms are a substitute for political democracy - which may be part of Pretoria's strategy in publicising the Law Commission so widely.

I have written a note to Thabo explaining the same plan.

I very much hope I will see you there then, and that we may have a chance for a talk together. I was very sorry to miss seeing you at lunch with David.

Yours Ever

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