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STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT 0! THE AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS, NELSON MANDELA, AT THE PHILADELPHIA LIBERTY  
MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY: PHILADELPHIA, JULY 4, 1993.

Master of Ceremonies,

Hon Bill Clinton, President of the United States of  
America,

Prof Martin Moller, President of the University  
of Pennsylvania and Chairman of the 1993 International  
Selection Commission and members of the Commission,  
Hon Ronald J. Reagan, President of the People's Republic  
of China, Hon Ed Rendell, Mayor of this historic city at  
Philadelphia;

President Bill Clinton, and fellow-honoree;

Distinguished guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

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It will have seemed strange to some, that two South Atriaans, with respective histories as different as those of this year's honorees, should share the honour of receiving the eminent Philadelphia Liberty Medal.

Equally, it will have seemed strange to note that we, as tighter: tor liberation, are, together with those who have been the captains o! apartheid, InVOIVId in processes leading to the democratic transforwnition of South Attica.

Some who know have also made the point that it was Itrango, two hundred years ago, that those who designed the world's first delocratio constitution in this very city; should have permitted the Iywteu ot Ilnvety to continue. t

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Strange though all these things might be, and evocative of different responses, they nevertheless speak to one issue. They speak to the durability of the glorious vision that gave birth to the independence of this country and to the United States Constitution.

They affirm the correctness and invincibility of the truths and the ideals of liberty, equality and the pursuit of human happiness contained in that historic document as well as the Declaration of Independence.

It is therefore with a deep sense of humility that we stand here today to receive the Medal which bestows on us as individuals, as a movement and as a people the stature of the founding fathers: who crafted your Constitution.

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The greet African-hmerican, Frederick Douglass,  
spoke in Rochester, New York on July 5th, 1852, on the  
topic - "The Meaning of July rourth tor the Negro".

Here l: some or what he said:

' Fellow citizens, I am not wanting in respect  
to: the father: at this republic...whey were great hen too  
- great enough to give trame to a great age...In their  
admiration of liberty, they lost sight of :ll other  
interests...!heir statesmanship looked beyond the passing  
eonent, and stretched away in strength into the distant  
tuture. They seized upon eternal principles, and set a  
glorioug example in their detenoe. '

It would be a rare honour to those who Hlll draw  
up our own Constitution that they should thus be described  
by the democratic commentator: and freedom activists of  
our own age and of the future.

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It is a moving thing for us, that we, who represent forces that have still to proclaim that freedom's day has come, are today being handed the baton in the race to liberty, at whose starting point, in Philadelphia, stood the great men of whom, the freed slave, Frederick Douglass, spoke with such warmth and charity of spirit.

But we would not be true to Frederick Douglass, if we did not recall other things that this great intellect and fighter for freedom said in the name address, a hundred and forty one years ago.

Frederick Douglass asked the poignant question:

' Are the great principles of political freedom

and natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us? ...'

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Struck by an almost palpable grief, he went on to say:

' The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me... This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn. '

' Fellow-citizens, above your national, tumultuous joy, I hear the mournful wail of millions... whose subject, then, fellow-citizens, is American slavery. I shall see this day and its popular characteristics from the slave's point of view. '

This is perhaps the greatest challenge we face as we struggle for the new birth of freedom, that none within our country should in future proclaim that justice, liberty and prosperity are not shared by them, as did Frederick Douglass, the black enslaved and the women of this country.

In the struggle for real change and a just peace, we will have to overcome the terrible heritage of the insult to human dignity, the inequalities, the conflicts and antagonism: that are the true expression of the apartheid system.

To overcome them we will have to succeed to build one nation in, which :ll South Africans will be to one another sister and brother, sharing a common destiny and shorn o: the terrible curse of having to define theleelves in racial and ethnic terms.

We must therefore negotiate and agree I constitution and a Bill of Rights that are both truly democratic and fully guarantee the fundamental human rights of :ll our citizens.

We must engage in the challenging process of the fundamental reconstruction of our country in all spheres of human endeavour -

so that the liberation of both the oppressed and the oppressor from the tyranny of racism becomes tangible, the equality of all, actual, and the recognition of the dignity of every human being; real;

so that the emancipation of our people, for which you have struggled, becomes a manifest and genuine continuation -

or what you sought to achieve when you declared your  
independence, adopted your constitution, your Bill of  
Rights and your civil rights instruments;  
of what you tried to realise when you went to war for the  
unity of your country, the emancipation of the slaves and,  
later, the destruction of slavery;  
so that our emancipation becomes a nonviolent and genuine  
continuation of the struggles you have waged,  
when you have striven to attain what you thought and think  
was and is just,  
as you grappled with the reality of what is for untold  
millions, both inside and outside this country, but a  
dream deferred -

the multitudes that are hungry, homeless and jobless;  
deprived of access to good health and knowledge;  
caught in the web of violence, drug abuse and hopeless  
despair;



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and stand at the city gates, with no other possibility to make their voices heard than to put to the torch the rich inheritance which Frederick Douglass denounced, not .because it was unworthy in itself, but because it had betrayed itself by excluding others who were as human as those who were the beneficiaries of the vision of freedom and prosperity to which this city is heir.

You, the people: at the United States of America and of the world stood with us as we fought for our political emancipation. We urge you to stay the course until freedom is won.

We call on you to invest in the new South Africa. to share with us your expertise and technology so that we come together in a joint venture that will produce the mutually beneficial result of democracy, prosperity, peace and stability for both our countries, friendship and cooperation between our peoples and enable us both to own the liberation of South Africa as a common prize.

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STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS. NELSON MANDELA. AT THE 1993 PHILADELPHIA LIBERTY  
MEDAL AWARD TRIBUTE LUNCHEON: PHILADELPHIA. JULY 4th.  
1993.

Master of Ceremonies:

Honourable leaders of the city of Philadelphia. of the  
State of Pennsylvania and the United States;

Distinguished guests. ladies and gentlemen:

We have met at this luncheon both to celebrate  
the Fourth of July and to get to know one another.

I, for one, am both delighted and inspired that  
you, who come from so many walks of life and play such a  
crucial role in the life of the people of this city, state  
and country, have been willing to sacrifice your vacation:  
so that we could be together on an occasion such as this  
one .

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Tho Modal Ho shall rocoivo this afternoon would  
have little meaning if it did not roprooont the roal  
people of this country. pooplo whom uo could too. touch.  
fool and hour, pooplo whom we could always romombor no  
adherents of the voluoo that are onclpoulotod in the  
Philadelphia Liberty Nodal.

I know that among you. thoro ore poopio who  
represent the grassroots movomont for the liberation of  
South Africa and the brood onti-oparthoid movomont that  
made thin country ono of the principal orohitocto of our  
commn victory ogoinot oparthoid. To you oil. we extend  
our humbio oaluto.

I also know that among you. thoro oro oomo with  
whom no diffored about the woyo and moons of bringing  
about ohongo in South Africa. but uho Iro roody to build a  
now rolationohip with the now South Africa. on the correct  
assumption that the now statue quo in our country will  
reflect the boot that your own rovorod sons and daughtoro  
stood and stand for.

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The creation of that now South Africa is going to require that enormous resources are made available for socio-economic development to improve the quality of life of especially the black million: who are deprived. once sanctions are lifted.

This is both important in itself and critical to the very success of the process of the democratic transformation of our country.

As you stand with us in the continuing struggle to end white minority rule. I trust that by investing in the new South Africa. building strong trade links. effecting technology transfer and helping us with regard to human resource development, you will make a significant contribution to that new agenda of building a vibrant economy and an equitable. stable and peaceful society.

U. have already made this appeal to the government of the United States. other nations who have the means to help. I hope such multilateral bodies as the world Bank and the IMF and trust that they too will respond positively.

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He. for our part, cunnlt gursolvos and our people  
to thu creation of the dcmocratlc. non-racial and  
non-aaxlst South Africa towards whoa. birth you have  
contributed in many significant uuys. Tbgethlr u. will  
win!

Thank you.'