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CDE NELSON MANDELA
POLSMOOR PRISON
PRIVATE BAG CAPE TOWN
RSA

HAVANA, 18TH, 1988.

TO COMRADE NELSON MANDELA :

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CUBA, I CONVEY TO U FRATERNAL AND
REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS ON THE OCCASSION OF YOUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY.

THE CONSTANT TOKENS OF SOLIDARITY THAT YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR
UNYIELDING DECISION TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RACIST REGIME TO OBTAIN
THE JUST RIGHTS OF YOUR PEOPLE, SHOWS THAT THE CAUSE THAT YOU
REPRESENT HAS BECOME THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD TO
ACHIEVE THE ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND TO HAVE, IN ITS PLACE, A
DEMOCRATIC, UNITED AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA.

WITH YOUR FIRM ATTITUDE, AFTER MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF
UNJUST IMPRISONMENT, YOU HAVE LOCKED YOUR OWN JAILERS IN A PRISON
WITHOUT BARS. THE UNIVERSAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS BRINGS, TO THE MEMORY
OF US CUBANS, THE THOUGHT OF OUR NATIONAL HERO, JOSE MARTI, WHO SAID
"A JUST IDEA FROM THE BOTTOM OF A CAVE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN AN
ARMY".

DEAR COMRADE MANDELA, YOUR LIFE HAS NOT BEEN DEDICATED TO YOUR PEOPLE
ALONE BUT TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND OF THE WORLD.

THE INTERNATIONALIST PEOPLE OF CUBA, WITH GREAT ADMIRATION,
REITERATES OUR SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO THE PATRIOTS - WORKERS,
PEASANTS, THE YOUTH AND WOMEN - OF THE HEROIC SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE
THAT, DAY AFTER DAY, IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, YOU ARE THE LIVING
EXAMPLE OF THAT PEOPLE AND OF ITS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO EMBRACE YOU THE MOMENT OF YOUR LIBERATION.

FIDEL CASTRO RUZ