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13 OCT 1997

President George Bush  
Walker's Point  
Kennebunkport  
**MAINE 04046**  
**USA**

Dear George

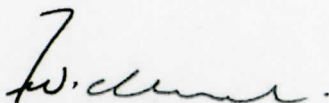
Thank you very much for your recent letter. It sustained me through a difficult period. I also highly appreciate your kind words about the period of my leadership, the decisions I took and the management of the process of change.

I am convinced that I took the right decision at the right time and have great hopes that my retirement from active party politics will contribute towards shifting the debate in South Africa, away from the past and focussing it on the burning issues which our country faces. I will continue to play a sort of grandfather role to my Party, which has decided to institute the post of Honorary President and to offer that to me.

Your friendship and support of my initiatives, the trust that you have placed in me and your firm stand at an early stage against the then prevailing negative world opinion, have meant a lot to me and to South Africa. I intend to give full credit for that in my autobiography on which I am working at the moment.

We will certainly make contact on the occasion of future visits to the USA and look forward to meet you and Barbara again.

With kind regards



**F W DE KLERK**