

Mandela launches ex-leaders' think tank

by UPI

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Former South African President Nelson Mandela has formed a think tank of retired world leaders to offer guidance in global affairs. About 12 people have been invited to join "The Elders," including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and retired Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, the Washington Post reported. The group met Tuesday in Johannesburg on the eve of Mandela's 89th birthday. Carter said the group wouldn't likely be active in mediating disputes but would investigate and then issue a public statement, the Post said. Mandela's wife, Graca Machel, said Mandela is hard of hearing and sometimes needs help walking and therefore won't have a major role in The Elders.

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