

~~SECRET~~ SECRET

Confidential filing

The future of Sir Roy Welensky

RHODESIA

OCTOBER 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
21.11.79							
7.6.80							
3.12.80							
4.12.80							
12.1.81							
2.3.81							
3.3.81							
10.6.82							
14.6.82							
21.6.82							
30.9.82							
1.10.82							
4.10.82							
28.10.82							

PREM 19/896

SECRET

HL

23 October 1982

Thank you for your letter of 25 October enclosing an extract from a letter which Lord Boyd has received from Sir Roy Welensky. I have, as you asked, shown the letter to the Prime Minister.

JOHN COLES

Mrs. J.M. Worth

FROM: VISGOUNT BOYD, C.H., D.L.

INCE CASTLE,
SALTASH,
CORNWALL. PL12 4RA
TEL: 075 55 2274
SALTASH 2274

25th October 1982

Dear Private Secretary,

Lord Boyd has asked me to send you the enclosed extract from a letter he has received from Sir Roy Welensky in reply to recent correspondence.

If you think at all appropriate and the opportunity occurs perhaps you would kindly show it to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

J.M. Worth

(Mrs. J. M. Worth)
Private Secretary.

The Private Secretary,
to The Prime Minister,

(2)

PRS

Prime Minister

22/10

27/10

mf

Telephone:
BLANDFORD 52781

SHAFTESBURY HOUSE
MILLDOWN ROAD
BLANDFORD FORUM
DORSET DT11 7DE

15TH OCTOBER, 1982.

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL"

THE VISCOUNT BOYD, C.H., D.L.,
INCE CASTLE,
SALTASH, CORNWALL.

MY DEAR ALAN,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR CONVEYING THE GIST OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER OF 1ST OCTOBER. LET ME SAY STRAIGHT AWAY THAT I SHARE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW THAT FURTHER PRESSURE IS UNLIKELY TO ELICIT A MORE FAVOURABLE RESPONSE. HAVING SAID THAT, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S EFFORTS IN TRYING TO HELP ME. IT SAYS A GREAT DEAL FOR HER HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS, THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT SHE HAS BEEN FACING, THAT SHE CAN SPARE TIME, NOT ONLY TO ISSUE THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT SHE DID TO THE VARIOUS OFFICIALS TO MAKE THE APPROACH, BUT ALSO TO WRITE YOU A LETTER SETTING OUT THE OUTCOME. I ADMIRE HER MORE AND MORE IN HER HANDLING OF THIS COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS.

HAVING SAID THAT, I REALLY MUST CHALLENGE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ZIMBABWEAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN THAT THEY HAVE TRIED TO HELP ME. IN REGARD TO THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT THAT THEY MAKE ABOUT THE £70,000, ALL THEY DID, IN FACT, WAS TO RELINQUISH A CLAIM ON FUNDS THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE U.K. AND WERE THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE TRUST THAT I SET UP FOR VALERIE AND THE TWO CHILDREN. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE FACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS, BECAUSE YOU SPOKE TO GORDON RICHARDSON ON MY BEHALF, AND HE PROVED MOST HELPFUL. I HAVE ALWAYS ARGUED WITH THE AGENTS OF THE RESERVE BANK THAT THESE FUNDS WERE FREE, AND THIS WAS EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED BY ONE OF THEIR AGENTS IN LONDON. IT'S TRUE THERE WAS A CHANGE OF HEART ON THEIR PART, AND THEY WANTED ME TO RETURN THE FUNDS TO ZIMBABWE, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE - THEY WERE BEYOND MY CONTROL. BUT THEY DID MAKE ME SELL A FEW KRUGER RANDBS THAT I HAD THAT WERE HELD IN LONDON, AND REMIT THE CASH BACK TO SALISBURY, WHERE IT WAS PLACED IN MY BLOCKED FUNDS. IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF MEDICAL FEES, AS YOU KNOW I AM COVERED

/CONTINUED.

CONTINUED

HERE BY THE HEALTH SCHEME, AND IN ANY CASE THEY APPLY THE YARDSTICK OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL FEES TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD TO LEAVE ZIMBABWE BECAUSE OF HEALTH. I COULD GIVE YOU SEVERAL EXAMPLES WHERE THEY HAVE NOT SHOWN MUCH CONSIDERATION FOR ME, BUT I WILL QUOTE ONE. YOU ARE AWARE, ALAN, THAT I AM 76 THIS JANUARY, AND TO PUT IT MILDLY, AS THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF HEART ATTACKS, I AM NOT A GOOD RISK. CONSEQUENTLY I WANTED MY SON TO COME UP FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCUSS MY AFFAIRS WITH HIM, AND I ASKED THE RESERVE BANK AUTHORITY THROUGH THE BANK THAT I DEAL WITH, WHETHER I COULD PAY THE AIR FARE FOR MICHAEL AND HIS WIFE FROM SALISBURY TO LONDON AND BACK. (THEY WOULD, OF COURSE, USE ZIMBABWE AIRWAYS). I GOT A REFUSAL.

I HOPE YOU WILL APPRECIATE, ALAN, THAT I AM GIVING YOU THIS DETAIL, NOT THAT I EXPECT ANYONE TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION ON MY BEHALF, BUT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO YOU THAT I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT

FROM: VISCOUNT BOYD, C.H., D.J.

INCE CASTLE,
SALTASH,
CORNWALL. PL12 4RA
TEL: 075 55 2274
SALTASH 2274

Prime Minister Rhodesia (2)

I told Lord Boyd that I was sure you would not mind him showing the letter to Roy Welensky.

2. Lord Boyd is "very touched" that you found time to deal with the matter

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

4th October 1982

MR RB A.S.C. 8/10

Dear Margaret -

Many thanks for your letter of the 1st October concerning Sir Roy Welensky's blocked funds in Zimbabwe.

I am very grateful for the personal trouble you have taken.

Though your letter was marked Private and Confidential I am assuming that I can show it to Roy and I hope that this is alright.

*Wm
Mar*

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,

Rhodesia

Future of Sir Roy Welensky

October 1979



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 October 1982

Private and Confidential.

Dear Alan

You will recall that you wrote to me in May about Sir Roy Welensky's blocked funds in Zimbabwe, and that I said that we would raise the matter with the Zimbabweans.

Our High Commissioner in Harare has discussed Sir Roy's case with the Zimbabwean Finance Minister, and with the senior official in his Ministry. It seems that they have already been treating Sir Roy's case very much as a special one. I understand that, in addition to the normal allowances permitted under Zimbabwe's exchange controls, Sir Roy has been allowed to withdraw the capital from a substantial trust fund (some £70,000) as well as certain sums to cover medical expenses. However, Zimbabwe's overall foreign exchange position is still very tight and there are many other elderly people who face similar difficulties but whose cases have not been treated as generously. In the circumstances, the Zimbabweans would find it very difficult indeed to agree to the release of the balance of Sir Roy's assets in a single payment. Nevertheless, they have said that although they can give no advance commitments, they would be prepared to consider sympathetically any requests Sir Roy might make to transfer funds to cover particular expenses he may incur, such as further medical fees. I am sure that his bank will be familiar with the procedures for doing this, but I gather that any such application should be submitted in the first instance to the Reserve Bank. If, for any reason, it is rejected by the exchange control authorities, I understand that there is provision for an appeal direct to the Minister of Finance.

/ I am sorry I cannot

889

I am sorry I cannot be more encouraging. It is, however, clear that the Zimbabweans have been and are willing to help Roy as much as possible; I very much doubt whether further pressure from us would elicit a more favourable response.

Y
Lansdown

Raymond

PRIME MINISTER

You asked whether we might mention the amount of Sir Roy Welensky's trust fund in the letter to Lord Boyd. There is no special reason why we should not do so but since the letter is to Lord Boyd rather than Sir Roy, there may be a case for omitting the precise figure. Two versions of the first page are attached for your choice.

17

30 September 1982



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

I think it would be better to refer to him as Sir Roy

You will recall that you wrote to me in May about Roy Welensky's blocked funds in Zimbabwe, and that I said that we would raise the matter with the Zimbabweans.

Our High Commissioner in Harare has discussed Roy's case with the Zimbabwean Finance Minister, and with the senior official in his Ministry. It seems that they have already been treating Roy's case very much as a special one. I understand that, in addition to the normal allowances permitted under Zimbabwe's exchange controls, Roy has been allowed to withdraw the capital from a substantial trust fund ^{Sw} (some £12,000) as well as certain sums to cover medical expenses. However, Zimbabwe's overall foreign exchange position is still very tight and there are many other elderly people who face similar difficulties but whose cases have not been treated as generously. In the circumstances, the Zimbabweans would find it very difficult indeed to agree to the release of the balance of Roy's assets in a single payment. Nevertheless, they have said that although they can give no advance commitments, they would be prepared to consider sympathetically any requests Roy might make to transfer funds to cover particular expenses he may incur, such as further medical fees. I am sure that Roy's bank ^{Sw} will be familiar with the procedures for doing this, but I gather that any such application should be submitted in the first instance to the Reserve Bank. If, for any reason, it is rejected by the exchange control authorities, I understand that there is provision for an appeal direct to the Minister of Finance.

eli

/I am

Pine Muster:

Ref. A09598

MR FLESHER

*Yes - check
will mean about
the amount of
the trust funds*

You will recall that Lord Boyd wrote to you FUS A about Sir Roy Welensky's blocked funds. The FCO and Sir Robert think that a formal approach to Mr Mugabe would be unproductive and recommended you to write as in the attached draft

You asked me to comment on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office letter of ^{TF} 29/9 20th September about the letter which Lord Boyd of Merton sent to the Prime Minister in May about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position.

2. It is clear from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office letter that the British High Commissioner in Harare has discussed the position with the Zimbabwe Minister of Finance and his Permanent Secretary. For whatever reason - apparently partly by mistake - the Zimbabweans have released quite a lot of Sir Roy Welensky's money; in particular, they have released a trust fund of about £70,000 which he had set up in favour of his children. It looks as if he may not have known about that when he wrote his letter of 14th May.

3. The question for the Prime Minister is whether to accept the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice and write to Lord Boyd as proposed; or to make a direct approach to Mr Mugabe, as she said that she would be perfectly ready to do.

4. I would judge that it is very unlikely that the Government of Zimbabwe will feel able to treat Sir Roy more generously, and that any formal approach to Mr Mugabe would probably be met with a polite and possibly even regretful refusal to be more generous in releasing funds.

5. It might be more productive if the Prime Minister were to speak privately to Mr Mugabe about this next time she sees him: no doubt he will be in London again before very long.

6. If the Prime Minister decides to proceed accordingly, she will wish to write to Lord Boyd, as proposed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28th September 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

✓RH

Rhodesia



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 September 1982

Dear Tim,

Lord Boyd forwarded a letter to the Prime Minister in May from Sir Roy Welensky, about his blocked funds in Zimbabwe. In her reply of 28 June, the Prime Minister told Lord Boyd that we would take up the matter with the Zimbabwean authorities.

Our High Commissioner in Harare has discussed the case with the Zimbabwean Minister of Finance and his Permanent Secretary. It appears that the Zimbabweans have already shown a measure of flexibility over Sir Roy Welensky's case. In addition to the normal foreign exchange allowances, he has been granted certain sums to cover medical expenses, as well as the transfer of a substantial trust fund, worth in the region of Z\$100,000 (approximately £70,000), which he had set up in favour of his children. Although permission for this transfer had apparently been given by mistake, the Zimbabweans decided to let it stand. The Zimbabweans now consider that, in the circumstances, it would be unfair to make further general concessions in Sir Roy's case, whilst there are many other elderly people whose foreign exchange allowances are being kept within the normal limits. They are, however, prepared to consider specific requests from Sir Roy, which might merit exceptional treatment, to transfer funds to cover particular expenses he may incur.

The High Commissioner believes, and we share his opinion, that in view of the Zimbabweans' relatively generous attitude towards Sir Roy so far, Zimbabwe's continuing tight foreign exchange position, and the number of other similarly deserving cases of which we are aware, it would be invidious and almost certainly unproductive to

/press

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



press the Zimbabwe Government to give overall agreement to release the balance of Sir Roy's assets.

/ I attach a further draft letter to Lord Boyd explaining the position.

Yours ever
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

Rhodesia, Oct 49
Future of Roy Welensky



Rhodesia

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 June 1982

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May enclosing one from Roy Welensky about his blocked funds in Zimbabwe.

We are taking the matter up direct with the Zimbabwe Government and hope they will recognise this as a very special case.

Yours ever

Raymond

The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Boyd of Merton, C.H., D.L.

da

*Mr Whitmore
No 10 Downing St.*

GR 168
CONFIDENTIAL
DEDIP
FM HARARE 241410Z JUN 82
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 341 OF 24 JUNE

*f-a
25
f-a.*

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR SIR L ALLINSON

MY TELNO 336: BLOCKED FUNDS

PLEASE IGNORE TUR. I SEIZED AN OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO PUT THE CASE TO CHIDZERO SAYING THAT "IT WAS ONE WHICH HAD COME TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENTION AND ABOUT WHICH SHE HOPED SOMETHING COULD BE DONE" AND ALSO THAT "I HAD BEEN ASKED TO RAISE IT WITH HIM PERSONALLY" BUT WITHOUT MAKING IT EXPLICITLY A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM MRS THATCHER. HE RESPONDED WELL. HE SAID THERE ARE VARIOUS PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT (THOUGH SUCCESS IS NOT OF COURSE ASSURED). HE WOULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE PERSON IN QUESTION HAD MADE ANY REQUEST AND IF SO WHAT HAPPENED TO IT. HE WOULD GET BACK TO ME TO ADVISE WHAT THE PERSON IN QUESTION SHOULD BEST DO NEXT. I SHALL REPORT FURTHER WHEN HE DOES.

2. PLEASE ASK PS/PUS TO IGNORE MY TELNO 337 TO HIM.

BYATT

LIMITED
HD/C AF D
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
SIR L ALLINSON

COPIES TO:-
MR WHITMORE NO 10 DOWNING ST. ✓

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Whitmore
No 10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL

GR 100

CONFIDENTIAL

DEDIP

FM HARARE 231322Z JUN 82

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 336 OF 23 JUNE.

[Handwritten signature]

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR SIR L ALLINSON.

FCO TELNO 246 : BLOCKED FUNDS.

1. I THINK THAT CHIDZERO IS THE RIGHT POINT OF ENTRY AND I SHALL TAKE ANY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS WITH HIM. I JUDGE THAT THERE WOULD BE MOST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING A RESULT IF I WERE TO VARY THE LINE IN THE LATTER PART OF PARA 3 OF TUR TO MAKE THIS A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM THE PRIME MINISTER FOR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. I TAKE IT THAT WOULD BE IN ORDER.

BYATT

LIMITED
HD/C AF D
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
SIR L ALLINSON
SIR J LEAHY

COPIES TO:

MR WHITMORE 10 DOWNING ST

*MR 250
p.a.*

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister.

This is about getting Sir Roy Welensky's money out of Zimbabwe. Are you content for the Hyfi Commission to put this to the Zimbabweans as a personal request from you (you said earlier that you were prepared to send a personal message to Mr Mugabe)?

[Handwritten initials]

tel 240

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 June 1982

Type letter as enclosed.

A. J. C. 24/6.

Dear John,

Clive Whitmore wrote on 14 June enclosing correspondence about Sir Roy Welensky. Sir Roy wrote to Lord Carrington last year about the general problem of Zimbabwe's exchange controls and I enclose a copy of the reply which was sent.

In the light of your letter we have asked our High Commissioner in Harare to discuss Sir Roy's case on a personal basis with the Zimbabwean Minister for Finance and we shall of course let you know the outcome. Meanwhile I attach a draft reply which the Prime Minister may wish to send to Lord Boyd.

Yours ever,

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

The Rt Hon Viscount Boyd CH DL
 Ince Castle
 Saltash
 Cornwall PL11 4RA

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 25 May enclosing one from Roy Welensky about his blocked funds in Zimbabwe.

This is a familiar problem. We have regularly brought up with
~~I am afraid that this problem is all too familiar to us and we regularly remind the Zimbabweans of~~
 the difficulties which their exchange controls can cause people in this country.

The Zimbabweans have said that they will give sympathetic consideration to individual cases, ^{so} and we shall certainly see whether anything can be done to help Roy. [↑] From past experience, given Zimbabwe's continuing foreign exchange problems, we shall not find the going easy. But we shall do our best.

shall be in touch again.

and we were doing to
The matter is being taken up now

Enclosures—flag(s).....

A. J. C. 21/6

21 JUN 1962

121 374
1962

4

File
Mr Whitmore
NO 10
Downy street

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U

11350 - 1

PP HARARE

GRS 375

D E Y O U

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 211545Z JUN 82

TO PRIORITY HARARE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 246 OF 21 JUNE.

FOLLOWING STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER

BLOCKED FUNDS: SIR ROY WELENSKY

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, SIR ROY WELENSKY WROTE TO LORD CARRINGTON LAST YEAR ABOUT THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF ZIMBABWE'S EXCHANGE CONTROLS (UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM OUR FILES WHETHER THE CORRESPONDENCE WAS IN FACT COPIED TO YOU). THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOW ASKED WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF SIR ROY'S OWN BLOCKED FUNDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE AMOUNT TO SOME 30,000 ZIMBABWEAN DOLLARS IN CASH WITH THE POSSIBLE ADDITION OF ANOTHER 40,000 ZIMBABWEAN DOLLARS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SIR ROY ALSO HAS A NUMBER OF STOCKS AND SHARES HELD IN ZIMBABWE.
2. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD MAKE A DISCREET APPROACH TO CHIDZERO, PERHAPS DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING.
3. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGE CONTROLS WAS NOT RAISED DURING MR MUGABE'S VISIT, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN HERE, NOT LEAST IN PARLIAMENT, ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WHICH THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE CAUSING SOME PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY. WE REALISE THAT THERE IS LITTLE THE ZIMBABWEANS CAN DO UNTIL THEIR FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION IMPROVES, AND WE NOTE THAT THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME RELAXATION OF THE CONTROLS. WE HOPE, HOWEVER,

1

/THAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U

11350 - 1

THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO ESPECIALLY DESERVING CASES. ONE SUCH CASE IS THAT OF SIR ROY WELENSKY. IN CONSIDERING HIS CASE THE ZIMBABWEANS MAY WISH TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SIR ROY'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE FEDERATION: HE HAS BEEN IN POOR HEALTH FOR SOME TIME (HE SUFFERED A SEVERE CORONARY ATTACK IN 1978): AND DESPITE HIS AGE (75) HE HAS A YOUNG FAMILY TO SUPPORT. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS TAKING A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE ZIMBABWEANS WILL FEEL ABLE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN CASES SUCH AS SIR ROY'S.

4. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING THIS WITH MUGABE PERSONALLY IF AN OPPORTUNITY ARISES. BUT IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO ARE SIMILARLY AFFECTED BY ZIMBABWEAN EXCHANGE CONTROLS WE NATURALLY DO NOT WISH ANY PUBLICITY FOR THIS REQUEST BY-HMG FOR EXCEPTIONAL TREATMENT FOR SIR ROY.

PYM

LIMITED
HD/C AF D
PS
PS/MR ONSLOW
SIR L ALLINSON
SIR J LEAHY

~~COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.~~

COPIES TO:-
MR WHITMORE NO 10 *Downing Street*

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U



Partch
file
13
A74

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SECRET AND PERSONAL

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A08629 about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position.

She has agreed that I should write to Mr Fall in the terms of the draft attached to your minute, though she has commented that she is quite prepared to write to Mr Mugabe herself if this proves necessary.

I enclose a copy of my letter to Mr Fall.

JWH.

14 June 1982



12
file AH

cc CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 June 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Dear Ronni,

I enclose a copy of a letter which Lord Boyd of Merton has sent to the Prime Minister, together with a copy of a letter which he has had from Sir Roy Welensky about the latter's financial position. As you will see, Sir Roy Welensky, who is now resident in Britain, has substantial assets tied up in Zimbabwe which have been frozen by the Mugabe Government and on which he is only allowed to draw at a very limited level. It would be a considerable help to Sir Roy Welensky if the Mugabe Government were able to take some exceptional action over the unfreezing of his assets.

Your files will show that a special arrangement was made early in 1981 to provide Sir Roy Welensky with an interest-free loan to purchase a house in England and for this loan to be paid back over a period of sixteen years through an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 from Her Majesty's Government. While it should be possible to defend the house purchase arrangement if it ever became public, it would be very difficult to defend any subsequent payments, particularly if they became a continuing commitment. The Prime Minister does, however, think that we should do all that we can to try to persuade the Mugabe Government to make an exception of Sir Roy Welensky and to release his capital assets frozen in Zimbabwe. She would be grateful if the advice of our High Commission in Harare could be sought on what action might be taken to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Whitman.

Brian Fall Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister. 11

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. WHITMORE

You but I am quite prepared to write to

write to the FCO in the terms of the attached draft? MS 171

see page 'A'

With his minute of 28th May to Mr. Wright, Mr. Pattison attached a copy of a letter from Lord Boyd of Merton to the Prime Minister about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position. Mr. Pattison asked for Cabinet Office advice before the matter is referred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He commented that the Prime Minister's reaction to Lord Boyd's letter was that we must both help Sir Roy Welensky further directly and also make a special case to Mr. Mugabe about the export of Sir Roy's financial assets from Zimbabwe.

2. I minuted Mr. Alexander at the beginning of 1981 about arrangements to provide financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky. At that time the proposal was to provide Sir Roy Welensky with somewhere to live in this country on terms that would be defensible, should the assistance become known. The Prime Minister accordingly agreed to arrangements, which both Sir Roy and Lady Welensky approved and validated in a signed agreement, and which provided for an interest-free loan of £80,000 for house purchase in the United Kingdom and an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 per annum which would be applied to the redemption of the loan during the lifetime of Sir Roy or Lady Welensky or for 16 years, whichever was shorter. The money was made over to the Welenskys in February 1981 after which they proceeded to a house purchase. (I take it that this is the house whose address is given in Sir Roy Welensky's letterhead). Sir Roy Welensky in due course wrote to the Prime Minister to thank you for these arrangements.

3. These arrangements provided Sir Roy Welensky with a substantial financial benefit in recognition of his past services. He was in effect enabled to acquire without cost to himself a house which at the end of 16 years would be the unencumbered property of himself or of Lady Welensky (so long as she continued to live in it).



12
file AA

cc CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 June 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Dear Ronni,

I enclose a copy of a letter which Lord Boyd of Merton has sent to the Prime Minister, together with a copy of a letter which he has had from Sir Roy Welensky about the latter's financial position. As you will see, Sir Roy Welensky, who is now resident in Britain, has substantial assets tied up in Zimbabwe which have been frozen by the Mugabe Government and on which he is only allowed to draw at a very limited level. It would be a considerable help to Sir Roy Welensky if the Mugabe Government were able to take some exceptional action over the unfreezing of his assets.

Your files will show that a special arrangement was made early in 1981 to provide Sir Roy Welensky with an interest-free loan to purchase a house in England and for this loan to be paid back over a period of sixteen years through an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 from Her Majesty's Government. While it should be possible to defend the house purchase arrangement if it ever became public, it would be very difficult to defend any subsequent payments, particularly if they became a continuing commitment. The Prime Minister does, however, think that we should do all that we can to try to persuade the Mugabe Government to make an exception of Sir Roy Welensky and to release his capital assets frozen in Zimbabwe. She would be grateful if the advice of our High Commission in Harare could be sought on what action might be taken to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Whitman.

Brian Fall Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister. 11

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. WHITMORE

You but I am quite prepared to write to the terms of the attached copy? This message not

see page 'A'

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

5. We should in the first instance do all that we can to persuade the Zimbabwe Government to make an exception over the unfreezing of Sir Roy Welensky's assets. Unless you think that this warrants a personal message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Mugabe (on which I think we should have to consult the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) I recommend that you should write to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's Private Secretary seeking the active intervention of our High Commission in Harare to this end. I attach a draft letter for you to send to Mr. Fall.

RIA

Robert Armstrong

11th June 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL



SECRET AND PERSONAL

DRAFT LETTER FROM MR. WHITMORE TO
B. J. P. FALL, Esq., Private Secretary to the
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

I enclose a copy of a letter which Lord Boyd of Merton has sent to the Prime Minister, together with a copy of a letter which he has had from Sir Roy Welensky about the latter's financial position. As you will see, Sir Roy Welensky, who is now resident in Britain, has substantial assets tied up in Zimbabwe which have been frozen by the Mugabe Government and on which he is only allowed to draw at a very limited level. It would be a considerable help to Sir Roy Welensky if the Mugabe Government were able to take some exceptional action over the unfreezing of his assets.

Your files will ^{show} reveal that a special arrangement was made early in 1981 to provide Sir Roy Welensky with an interest-free loan to purchase a house in England and for this loan to be paid back over a period of 16 years through an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 from Her Majesty's Government. While it should be possible to defend the house purchase arrangement if it ever became public, it would be very difficult to defend any subsequent payments, particularly if they became a continuing commitment. The Prime Minister does, however, think that we should do all that we can to try to persuade the Mugabe Government to make an exception of Sir Roy Welensky and to release his capital assets frozen in Zimbabwe. She would be grateful if the advice of our High Commission in Harare could be sought on what action might be taken to this end.

SECRET AND PERSONAL



10

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

BF

MR. WRIGHT

Lord Boyd of Merton has sent the Prime Minister the attached letter, with a copy of one to him from Sir Roy Welensky.

You will see that Sir Roy is still concerned about the financial position of his family in the longer term.

The Prime Minister's initial reaction is that we must both help him further directly, and make a special case to Mr. Mugabe about the export of Sir Roy's financial assets from Zimbabwe.

I am not, at this stage, copying the correspondence to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I am sure that the Prime Minister would appreciate Sir Robert Armstrong's advice in the first instance.

MAP

28 May 1982

B

28 May 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 25 May about Sir Roy Welensky. She will see this over the weekend.

M A PATTISON

The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Boyd of Merton, C.H., D.L.

BC

PRIME MINISTER

Here is a letter from Lord Boyd, who has recently seen Sir Roy Welensky. Sir Roy is still having difficulties caused by the freezing of assets in Zimbabwe. These are set out in the letter he has written to Lord Boyd.

Would you like to reply to Lord Boyd saying that we are applying what pressure we can to persuade Mr. Mugabe's government to allow the export of assets? Or would you like us to explore with the FCO whether there is anything more we can do to give Sir Roy specific help, despite the generous assistance he has already had?

WM

27 May, 1982

We must help further!
ms

I think we should also make a special case for Dr. Mugabe
ms

FROM: VISCOUNT BOYD, C.H., D.L.

INCE CASTLE,
SALTASH,
CORNWALL. PL12 4RA

TEL: 075 55 2274
SALTASH 2274

25 May 1982

R27

My dear Margaret,

You may remember that on the morning after your historic visit to Old Warden in Bedfordshire I told you at breakfast that Patsy and I were shortly going to see Roy Welensky in Dorset.

I said that he was very worried about the freezing of assets in Zimbabwe. You told me that after talking to him I could write to you. I have now had a letter from Roy, a copy of which I attach.

James
Alan

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,

Telephone:
BLANDFORD 52781

SHAFTESBURY HOUSE
MILLDOWN ROAD
BLANDFORD FORUM
DORSET DT11 7DE

"CONFIDENTIAL"

14TH MAY, 1982.

THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT BOYD OF MERTON, CH, DL.,
INCE CASTLE,
SALTASH,
CORNWALL PL12 4RA.

MY DEAR ALAN,

IT WAS A GREAT JOY FOR VAL AND I TO HAVE YOU AND PATSY WITH US,
AND I NEED HARDLY SAY WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BOTH
AT INCE LATER IN THE YEAR.

DO I HAVE TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE INTEREST YOU HAVE
TAKEN IN MY AFFAIRS, WHICH I WILL NOW SET OUT AS BEST I CAN.

IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE WHOLE PROBLEM TURNED ON WHETHER THE
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE WILL ALLOW ME TO TAKE MY CAPITAL OUT OF THAT
COUNTRY. BRIEFLY MY FINANCIAL POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

THERE IS A TRUST FOR VAL AND THE TWO CHILDREN THAT WITH THE HELP
OF YOU AND GORDON RICHARDSON WE ESTABLISHED AFTER I HAD THAT SEVERE
CORONARY ATTACK IN '78. UNTIL THE RECESSION AND THE SHARP FALL IN
MINING SHARES THERE WAS AN INCOME OF ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT THOUSAND
POUNDS A YEAR FROM THAT SOURCE. IT IS NOW CONSIDERABLY LESS. TURNING
TO THE ZIMBABWE SITUATION, I HAVE ABOUT 30,000 DOLLARS IN CASH; IT'S
PROBABLY MORE THAN THIS NOW. I AM ALMOST DUE FOR ANOTHER 40,000
DOLLARS ON A HOUSE I SOLD. PAYMENT HAS GOT TO BE COMPLETED BY 1983.
I ALSO HAVE STOCKS AND SHARES, MAINLY SOUTH AFRICAN, AND A RAILWAY
PENSION, AS AN EX-ENGINE DRIVER, OF 203 RHODESIAN DOLLARS A MONTH.
WHEN WE LEFT ZIMBABWE A YEAR AGO, THE ARRANGEMENT IN EXISTENCE AT
THAT TIME WAS THAT I COULD TAKE OUT 25,000 DOLLARS A YEAR, RISING
FROM THE FUNDS THAT I HAD. WITHIN FOUR MONTHS THAT WAS REDUCED TO
15,000 DOLLARS P.A. A FAIRLY ROUGH EQUIVALENT WOULD BE £10,000
IN ENGLISH CURRENCY. I THINK I OUGHT TO ADD THAT ON THE ANNIVERSARY
OF MY DEPARTURE FROM ZIMBABWE, I AM ALLOWED TO DRAW 3,000 DOLLARS
OF CAPITAL. IN PASSING, I THINK I SHOULD MENTION THAT I AM GETTING
VERY STRONG RUMOURS FROM SALISBURY THAT THE 15,000 DOLLAR LIMIT IS
LIKELY TO BE STILL FURTHER REDUCED, IN THE LIGHT OF ZIMBABWE'S

/CONTINUED.

CONTINUED

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHAT I AM REALLY TRYING TO SAY, ALAN, IS THAT WHEN WE LEFT A YEAR AGO MY INCOME WAS SUCH THAT IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN US A REASONABLE STANDARD OF LIVING, BUT WITH THE CONTINUED INFLATION PLUS THE WORLD RECESSION, PARTICULARLY IN THE MINERAL MARKET, OUR POSITION WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT AS WE GO ALONG. I CAN MANAGE FOR A WHILE LIVING ON CAPITAL, WHICH IS WHAT I AM DOING AT THE MOMENT, BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THAT AS WELL.

VAL AND I ARE BOTH ANXIOUS TO SEE THE TWO LITTLE GIRLS EDUCATED, AND I WANT IT DONE AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW EXPENSIVE THAT IS IN THIS COUNTRY. IN PASSING THE TRUST THAT I SET UP FOR VAL AND THE TWO KIDS IS IN JERSEY.

VAL JOINS ME IN SENDING OUR AFFECTIONATE REGARDS TO YOU BOTH.

AS EVER.

Ray

I gave you the value of my Rhodesian assets in a previous letter about £200,000.

London SW1A 2AH

216

15 September 1981

MA
1679
210

Roy

SEP 15 1981	
17 SEP 1981	

Thank you for your letter of 1 September. I only wish that I had heard from you in somewhat happier circumstances and very much hope you will soon begin to feel more settled.

The problems which Zimbabwe's exchange controls are causing many UK residents are all too familiar to us, and it was disappointing to hear of the further restrictions imposed by the Minister of Finance in his latest budget. The basic problem for the Zimbabwe Government is an acute shortage of foreign exchange which, along with most of the present controls, they largely inherited.

We have raised the problems of blocked funds with the Zimbabweans on a number of occasions, and pointed out the hardships which those concerned are suffering as a result. The Zimbabwe authorities have assured us that they intend to relax the controls as soon as they can afford to do so. To be fair to them, they have already made some changes in the regulations to the benefit of British citizens. In his 1980 budget, for example, Mr Nkala removed the discriminatory controls on the remittance of all forms of current income, including the interest on blocked funds to UK companies and individuals, and last January he introduced a scheme for the release of blocked capital up to a maximum of \$3,000. These measures brought welcome relief to many who had small amounts of money tied up in Zimbabwe for many years and had almost given up hope of seeing it again.

You mention our aid programme, in which we sought to be as generous as we could manage, and necessarily so. I think

/you

The Rt Hon Sir Roy Welensky PC KCMG



you hit the nail on the head when you refer to the changed circumstances in Zimbabwe. To give the new nation the best possible start, in the interests of all who live in that country, it was vital that we should follow up the political settlement with an immediate injection of aid which would help repair the damage of the war and put the economy back on its feet.

Despite some problems (such as the shortage of rail transport and fuel supplies) the economy is fundamentally sound and we believe that Zimbabwe has every chance of overcoming its short-term difficulties.

In the meantime we shall continue to take every opportunity to impress upon the Zimbabweans our concern at the personal financial problems many are experiencing as a result of the exchange controls. I very much hope that we shall see some improvement before too long. *L. I. Shaw*

See you soon

J. P. Carrington
(CARRINGTON)

Choderia 9

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Roy Welensky

The Prime Minister has seen and taken note of your minute to me of 2 March.

The letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Roy Welensky attached to your minute proved to be no more than a very brief thank you. The Prime Minister will not be replying.

MODBA

3 March 1981

[Handwritten mark]

Ref. A04342

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister
To note.

Better not to reply to Sir R. Welensky,
(would have thought).

Sir Roy Welensky

Yes - no
reply not - 2/3

In your minute of 12th January, you informed me that the Prime Minister was content with the arrangements which I submitted in my minute of 9th January for offering financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky for the purchase of a house in the United Kingdom. These arrangements were put to Sir Roy and Lady Welensky at the beginning of February. They were content with and grateful for them, and have now signed an agreement which provides for an interest-free loan of £80,000 for house purchase in the United Kingdom and an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 per annum which will be applied to the redemption of the loan during the lifetime of Sir Roy or Lady Welensky or for 16 years, whichever is shorter. The money has now been made over to the person who is acting as the intermediary in the house purchase, and contracts for the purchase have been exchanged. Both Sir Roy and Lady Welensky have been reminded of the crucial importance that there should be no leak about this arrangement. The signed agreement, of which only the original exists,

2. Sir Roy Welensky has asked the High Commissioner in Salisbury to arrange delivery of the attached envelope addressed to the Prime Minister. He gave no indication of its contents. No doubt you will let me know if it is anything other than an expression of gratitude for these arrangements.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

2nd March, 1981

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

The Rt. Hon. Sir Roy Welensky, K.C.M.G.

Telephone 23338

P.O. Box 804
SALISBURY
Zimbabwe

PRIVATE AND PERSONAL.

6th February, 1981
(Dictated 5.2.81)

My Dear Prime Minister,

A very brief note which does not call for a reply, its purpose is to say thank you for the kindness and consideration that has been shown to me in regard to my own problem.

My wife joins me in conveying our good wishes to you and your husband.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

The Rt.Hon.Mrs.M.Thatcher M.P.
10, Downing Street,
London,
ENGLAND.

Roy Welensky

SECRET

& PERSONAL

ds
7



Rhodesia

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

Sir Roy Welensky

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 9 January about Sir Roy Welensky. She agrees that the arrangements summarised in your minute are sensible. She sees no need to pursue the idea of a grace and favour residence.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

12 January 1981

SECRET

& PERSONAL

Q.

SECRET

PERSONAL

Ref. A03946

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister

This seems a sensible arrangement.

Agree?

Ans
- 9/1

Sir Roy Welensky

In the light of my recent talk with the Prime Minister I have discussed further the proposed financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky. I hope that we have now devised arrangements that would be defensible if they became public - though the intention is that they should not do so.

2. It is now proposed to lend Sir Roy Welensky a sum not exceeding £80,000 for the purchase of a house in the United Kingdom. The loan would be free of interest, and would be due for repayment over 16 years. It would be made to Sir Roy Welensky by a solicitor in private practice (who would be put in funds for the purpose), and the agreement would be between this solicitor and Sir Roy and Lady Welensky.

3. An ex gratia award of £5,000 a year would also be made to Sir Roy Welensky in recognition of his past services. This sum would be applied each year to the reduction of the loan. No cash payment would be involved. The award would continue during the lifetime of Sir Roy Welensky and of Lady Welensky (if, as is to be expected, she survives him), and would terminate either on the death of the last survivor of the two or at the end of 16 years, when the loan would have been discharged in full, whichever was earlier.

4.

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

SECRET

PERSONAL

5. I think that the arrangement now proposed is generous to Sir Roy Welensky and defensible, should it become ^{public} knowledge (though I hope it will not). I hope that the Prime Minister will think so too,

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9th January, 1981



File

259
5

Rhodesia

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

BF 12.12.80

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 3 December about Sir Roy Welensky. The Prime Minister is unhappy at the idea of making an outright gift of money to Sir Roy. She has said that the best solution would be to find him a grace and favour house. If this is not possible, she asked whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office could not purchase the house and give Sir Roy and, ultimately, his widow a joint life interest in it.

Mo@BA

4 December 1980

SP

-Prime Minister-

4

I don't think we can. The better thing would be a private house.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. ALEXANDER

Agree that Sir R. Welensky should be given a gift rather than an interest free loan with which to buy a house in the F.O. premises. He would like this way? Sir Roy would have a joint life interest and

Print - 3/11

You corresponded with Mr. Walden (his letter of 30th April and yours of 17th May) about helping Sir Roy Welensky to find a place in this country.

2. The Prime Minister agreed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary that the best arrangement would be to provide Sir Roy with an interest-free lump sum for the purchase of a house. The last paragraph but one of Mr. Walden's letter of 30th April said that in negotiating with Sir Roy Welensky they would try to make arrangements with him for some repayment, but clearly envisaged that that might not be possible.

3. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have now come back to me to propose that the best solution would be to provide Sir Roy Welensky outright with the wherewithal to purchase a house rather than offer him a loan on "easy terms". They would like to make it an outright gift, so as to "avoid all the complications and insecurity of a continuing relationship over the years", and particularly when Sir Roy Welensky dies and his estate has to be settled. They have also satisfied themselves that Sir Roy Welensky would be in no position to make repayments over a realistic period.

4. There is of course much force in these arguments. If the help was to take the form of a loan or of a gift subject to a reversionary right when Sir Roy and Lady Welensky no longer require it, there would be complications about deciding where and when to seek repayment of the loan or the exercise of the right. As Accounting Officer, however, I feel bound to make the point that an outright gift is a different matter from a loan; or a gift with a reversionary right as a condition. On the latter basis there is a contingent asset to offset against the outgoing and in the former case there is not.

5. I would not myself wish to strain at making the help to Sir Roy Welensky an outright gift: I think he has deserved sufficiently well of this country to justify that. But, as the Prime Minister approved an interest-free loan rather than a gift I should like to be sure that she is also content with the new proposal.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

3rd December 1980



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1980

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

1. Mr Alexander *Am*
2. PA.
ms
2xii

Dear Robert,

SIR ROY WELENSKY

1. You will remember the letters exchanged between George Walden and Michael Alexander (dated 30 April and 7 May respectively) about the proposal to provide Sir Roy Welensky with a sum of money for the purchase of a house in the United Kingdom. Sir Roy's concern was not just to give himself the opportunity of retiring here but to provide for the security of his wife, who is English, after his death.
2. We have had detailed discussions with Sir Roy during the intervening months and it has become clear that the best solution would be to provide him outright with the wherewithall for a house purchase, rather than pay him and his widow a pension or offer them a loan on easy terms. An outright gift would enable us to make a once and for all transaction through a solicitor and so avoid all the complications and insecurity of a continuing relationship over the years. These complications would be particularly acute at the time of his death and the settlement of his estate. Moreover it is clear from the detailed examination we have made of Sir Roy's finances that he would be in no position to make repayments over a realistic period and that to ask him or his widow to do so would vitiate our purpose in giving him this support. Even with a gift, he and his wife will have to live fairly modestly in England, and they have shown themselves to be realistic about this prospect.
3. I have been very concerned about the way in which implementation of this proposal has hung fire. Lady Welensky visited the United Kingdom in August and was in touch with a solicitor, but was not able to find a suitable house at the right price and went back to Zimbabwe after three weeks when her husband's health took a turn for the worse.

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RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

/She



She and Sir Roy then decided that they would buy one of the houses she had seen and rejected, only to find that it had by then been withdrawn from the market. Our High Commissioner in Salisbury has kept in touch with Sir Roy urging him not to let matters drag on, and, during my recent visit there, without seeing Sir Roy personally, I emphasised our concern that the business should be concluded swiftly. We have now heard that Lady Welensky will be coming to the United Kingdom on January 8 to resume the search, and I hope that we will be able to settle the affair shortly thereafter.

True copy,

Michael

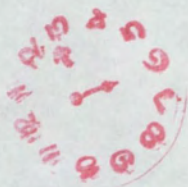
Michael Palliser

cc: C A Whitmore Esq
No 10 Downing Street





22 DEC 1980



7 May 1980

Sir Roy Welensky

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 30 April about Sir Roy Welensky. She agrees with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary that the best arrangement would be to provide Sir Roy with an interest free lump sum for the purchase of a house.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office) only.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

George Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



①
Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary (see final para)

London SW1A 2AH

favours a lump sum payment to enable

Sir Welensky to buy a house here for his wife & young family. Agree?

30 April 1980

Dear Michael

Paul 6/5

Yes not

SIR ROY WELENSKY

You may recall that you wrote to me on 15 November last agreeing that Sir Michael Palliser should pursue with Mr Callaghan the question of how we might best help Sir Roy Welensky with a pension and a place in this country.

Mr Callaghan's advice was that we should make contact with Sir Roy Welensky himself and this we did through the then Deputy Governor in Salisbury, Sir Antony Duff. Not unexpectedly perhaps we found Sir Roy Welensky was showing less urgency than he did when he was over here about an early move to the UK. In effect, like all Rhodesians, he was waiting on events. Since the election, we have not been able to make contact with him. He is now fairly seriously ill with a heart complaint in a Salisbury hospital.

Sir Antony Duff's initial contacts did however establish two new factors. First, Sir Roy Welensky made it clear that his primary concern was not so much with finding a place in the UK in which to spend his last years as with setting up his wife and two children with a financially secure base in the UK after his death. (His second wife comes from Yorkshire and will almost certainly wish to return there after his death with their two children, now aged 4 and 2.) Secondly, it is clear that Sir Roy Welensky commands more financial resources than he had previously led us to believe. He has some £120,000 invested in the UK and £75,000 in Rhodesia. In principle, under current regulations, he cannot withdraw capital from Rhodesia above a pretty nominal amount, but may withdraw interest on the blocked capital.

Sir Roy Welensky has not demurred at the prospect, mentioned to him, that we might be able to consider a pension of up to £10,000 a year but he has made it clear to us that what he wants is a lump sum to help him buy a house in the UK without having to draw upon his capital here, ie he wishes to avoid having to reduce the income upon which he and his family would need to live in future years. Incidentally, we do not know whether Lady Welensky has any financial resources of her own.

/You

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



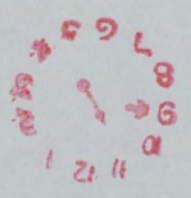
You recorded in your letter of 2 November that the Prime Minister was anxious to do what we could to help Sir Roy Welensky. It may be that you would wish to consult the Prime Minister again in the light of subsequent developments in Rhodesia, what we now know of Sir Roy Welensky's financial resources and his evident intention that the help we provide should go primarily to his wife and children. If however the Prime Minister would continue to wish something to be done for Sir Roy Welensky then money could be made available to him from the Secret Vote.

We have reviewed the various alternatives which include the provision of a pension to Sir Roy Welensky and to his widow after his death. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has come to the conclusion that the cheapest and simplest arrangement would also be the tidiest and most dignified way of treating Sir Roy Welensky. This would be to provide him with an interest-free lump sum for the purchase of a house. We would try to make arrangements with him for some repayments, but even if this did not succeed we think that even at say £70-£80,000 the advantages of a quick finite arrangement would be worth the cost and much preferable to any longer-drawn out arrangement for a pension.

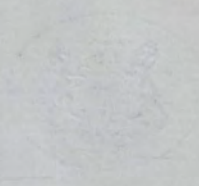
I am copying this letter to David Wright.

Yours ever
G G H

(G G H Walden)



-6 MAY 1980



Rhodesia

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

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Free

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1979

SIR ROY WELENSKY

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 15 November about Sir Roy Welensky. She agrees that the next step should be for Sir Michael Palliser to pursue the discussion with Mr. Callaghan. I have warned Mr. McCaffrey that Sir Michael will be getting in touch with the Leader of the Opposition.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. O'D. B. Alexander'.

G. G. H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

(1)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister.

If you agree I will tell Mr Callaghan's Office that you are anxious to help & that Sir M. Palliser will be getting in touch with Mr Callaghan to carry the matter forward. We will then need to consider how to proceed with Sir R. Welensky the question of what exactly he would like us to try to do for him.

15 November 1979

Speed me

Dear Michael,

Paul 16/11

Thank you for your letter of 2 November about Sir Roy Welensky.

I have discussed the question of funds with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. We think we can help with a pension. The question of providing Sir Roy with a place in this country is something which will have to be taken up with the Home Office.

The next step should be for us to make contact with Mr Callaghan. I wonder whether the Prime Minister would wish you to do this; or whether she would be content for this to be done by Sir Michael Palliser?

Yes me

Yes me
GGH

(G G H Walden)

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL WP



Sir Roy WELENSICY

25/11

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 November 1979

I enclose a copy of a letter to me from Tom McCaffrey covering a letter to Mr. Callaghan from Sir Roy Welensky.

I have discussed Sir Roy Welensky's letter with the Prime Minister. She is very anxious that we should do what we can to help. I am not altogether sure how to take the matter further: clearly the ideal would be to be able to offer Sir Roy a place in this country and some kind of pension. Perhaps we could have a word once you have investigated whether there are any funds under the control of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary which could be used.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

5



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From:

The Office of the
Leader of the Opposition

31 October 1979

Dear Michael,

Mr. Callaghan has asked me to send you the attached copy of a letter received from Roy Welensky. I understand that Mr. Callaghan discussed this with you yesterday.

Yours sincerely,

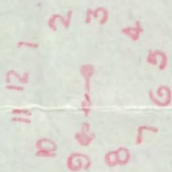
*14
Fleur de Laff.*

Michael Alexander, Esq.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON

2 - NOV 1979



6/8/79

Dear Jim I'm sorry that I
shall not be seeing you, my
doctors have insisted I stay
quiet before my journey home
on Wed: I wanted to thank
you in person for your kind
& encouraging note when I
was so ill. You said to me a
couple of years ago "did I intend
to stay in Z.R." & I replied "yes."
I'm now beginning to wonder
if it's going to be possible to
do so, the problem is where to
go to? there are no jobs for
ex P.M.s at 43 & you know
how little one can take out
of our country about £5000.

& as I have no pension for my
public service that wouldn't last
very long, so I have my
problems. I'm only sorry they
have come so late in life
Tim I wish you well in the
future

Kindest Regards
as ever

Ray Welensky

The last straw in my sad saga
was the demand by S. G. Airways
that I provide a medical certificate
that I'm fit to fly!!

