

OB
CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 131633Z OCT 79
TO FLASH MONROVIA
TELNO 115 OF 13 OCT 79.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T117A | 797

RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT.

BEGINS

I KNOW HOW CLOSELY YOU ARE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. I HAVE SEEN MR DOUBLEDAY'S ACCOUNT OF YOUR TALKS WITH HIM ON 11 OCTOBER. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE YOU TO KNOW MY ASSESSMENT OF THE POSITION WE HAVE NOW REACHED.

THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION WHICH WE HAVE PUT FORWARD HAS IN OUR VIEW GONE A VERY LONG WAY TO MEET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S REQUIREMENTS. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NO EASY TASK TO SECURE THE SALISBURY DELEGATION'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT. THAT CONSTITUTION PROVIDES, INDISPUTABLY, FOR GENUINE MAJORITY RULE.

IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH SIDES HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE, AND WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THAT. BUT WE HAVE NOW BEEN ENGAGED IN FIVE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION ON THE CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL THE ISSUES AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CONSTITUTION WE HAVE PUT FORWARD IS THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. WE CANNOT MAKE FURTHER CHANGES AT THIS STAGE.

WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OVER THE QUESTION OF LAND. WE RECOGNISE THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROBLEM TO BOTH SIDES. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION MAKES FULLY ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR SETTLEMENT. BUT, AS YOU RECOGNISE, THERE MUST ALSO BE PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION. LORD CARRINGTON MADE A STATEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE ON 11 OCTOBER PROMISING THAT WE WOULD HELP, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES AND CAPITAL AID FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE SHALL ALSO BE READY TO HELP THE NEW GOVERNMENT OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THESE AND OTHER PURPOSES.

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IF THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH DELEGATIONS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING ELECTIONS SUPERVISED UNDER OUR AUTHORITY - AS WAS AGREED AT LUSAKA - AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. THIS WILL OFFER FURTHER HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE MAKING PROGRESS, THAT RHODESIA WILL COME TO INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND THAT THE PARTIES WILL BE PREPARED TO COMPETE FOR POWER BY POLITICAL MEANS. THE SALISBURY DELEGATION HAVE AS YOU KNOW ACCEPTED THE CONSTITUTION. THEY HAVE ALSO STATED THEIR READINESS TO ACCEPT ELECTIONS SUPERVISED UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. (BISHOP MUZOREWA ALSO MADE CLEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE HIS READINESS TO AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE). WE STILL AWAIT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S ACCEPTANCE.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT IN BRINGING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.
ENDS

2. YOU SHOULD INFORM YOUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUE OF THE ACTION WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN. SIMILAR, THOUGH NOT IDENTICAL, MESSAGES ARE BEING SENT TO NYERERE, MACHEL, SERETSE KHAMA AND SHAGARI.

CARRINGTON

F I L E S

RHOD D
OADS
N AM D
NEWS D
PUSD
PLANNING STAFF
ES & SD
CCD
FRD
UND.
LEGAL ADVISERS
(MR FREELAND)
(MR FIFOOT)
ECON D
PCD

DEF D
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PS/IPS
PS/MR LUCE
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PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR A DUFF
LORD N G LENNOX
MISS BROWN
MR DAY
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MR ASPIN

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