

to Zambia, Nov 79
Visit by Kaunda.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 November 1979

Dear Michael,

Prime Minister's Meeting with President
Kaunda: 10 November

L.S.
Shunt, 12/10

I have sent you the reply given today by the Patriotic Front to our proposals for the pre-independence arrangements. This takes us no further forward. It consists to a large extent of a re-statement of their opening position. It will not be possible to reach agreement on this basis.

On the points we can "offer" President Kaunda, the Prime Minister may wish to emphasise that, if the Patriotic Front leaders can agree to our general proposals:

- (a) we envisage a Ceasefire Commission on which the Commanders of the forces on both sides would be represented. The Patriotic Front forces would have "status" (arrangements would need to be made for their housing, food, etc) and would be responsible to the Governor for the maintenance of the cease-fire.
- (b) to meet some of the concerns expressed by the Front Line Presidents, we envisage a monitoring force under United Kingdom auspices, to which certain other Commonwealth Governments have already offered to contribute (Australia, New Zealand and Fiji; we have also approached Kenya and may approach Malaysia). This will not be an intervention force (which could easily find itself involved in clashes with the Patriotic Front). Its purpose will be to monitor and control the cease-fire and to help to exercise a stabilising influence when the result of the election is known.
- (c) with regard to the status of the parties and their leaders during the election campaign (about which Kaunda has expressed great concern), we should emphasise that they will all be represented on the Election Council and will all campaign on the same basis.

This really is as much as we can offer the Patriotic Front or President Kaunda. The Prime Minister will wish to emphasise once again to President Kaunda that the key to peace is in his hands. (On behalf of Lord Carrington, Mr Luce sent him an oral message this evening to this effect). We are doing everything we can to give effect to the Lusaka agreement. A settlement

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is obtainable on this basis; but not on some other basis. We are in a position to put these plans into effect. We are closer to a solution than ever before; but we can only succeed if President Kaunda decides to support us. The Prime Minister may also wish to indicate that we believe that Mr Nkomo is showing considerably more interest in a settlement than Mr Mugabe; and that it would be a tragedy if the latter's intransigence caused the chance of a settlement to be lost.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

R M J Lyne