



Original in G/R

also

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 September 1979

Thank you for your letter of 3 September about the case of two young Africans, Benhard and Leavit Katumba. Mr. Richard Luce is replying to the earlier letter about this to which you refer.

As a result of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting we now have a basis for progress towards an internationally acceptable settlement on Rhodesia. In accordance with the Lusaka understanding, we have summoned a Constitutional Conference which is being attended both by Bishop Muzorewa's administration and by the two wings of the Patriotic Front. We believe it is essential, if we are to make a success of this Conference, that we should be able to negotiate freely with all the parties to the conflict. Immunity from arrest has therefore been accorded to the principal participants on both sides, and we do not think it would be helpful in the circumstances to impose conditions on that immunity.

The only way to end the violence and suffering in Rhodesia is to bring the war there to an end. We are doing all we can to work for an internationally acceptable settlement that can restore Rhodesia to legality and peace.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

Robert Hughes, Esq., MP.

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