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DESKBY 200030Z

FM FCO 271805Z JUL 79

TO IMMEDIATE SINGAPORE

TELNO 178 OF 27 JULY

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No: T 508/79T

CP 020/16	
20 JUL 79	

MIPT: RHODESIA.

1. TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO MR LEE KUAN YEW IS AS FOLLOWS:

I AM GLAD WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING AND THE RHODESIA PROBLEM. OUR TALK ABOUT THIS WHEN YOU WERE HERE IN JUNE WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL. JOHN HENNINGS WILL HAVE GIVEN YOU A COPY OF MY SPEECH ON SOUTHERN AFRICA OF 25 JULY. IT MAY BE HELPFUL IF I LET YOU KNOW BRIEFLY HOW WE INTEND TO PROCEED AT LUSAKA.

WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR INTENTION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF COMMONWEALTH FEELING ON RHODESIA. IN RETURN WE LOOK TO THE COMMONWEALTH TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM IS SEEKING A FAIR AND DEMOCRATIC SETTLEMENT. A SETTLEMENT WHICH ALLOWED THOSE WHO RELY ON FORCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS RATHER THAN THOSE WHO SEEK TO ADVANCE THEIR CAUSE BY DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS WOULD BE MANIFESTLY UNJUST.

AT LUSAKA WE SHALL SHOW THAT WE WISH TO DEAL WITH THE UNDERSTAND-ABLE CONCERN OF THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR EXAMPLE ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE PROTECTION GIVEN TO THE WHITE MINORITY IN THE PRESENT RHODESIAN CONSTITUTION. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE THAT WE SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE SIX PRINCIPLES ACCEPTED BY SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS: THAT WE ARE AIMING TO MAKE PROPOSALS COMPARABLE TO THE BASIS ON WHICH INDEPENDENCE WAS GRANTED TO OTHER FORMER BRITISH TERRITORIES IN AFRICA: AND THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO INVOLVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. WE SHALL NOT TRY TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT AT LUSAKA: I AM CONVINCED THIS WILL ONLY MAKE A SETTLEMENT HARDER TO ACHIEVE. WE SHALL DELIBERATELY REFRAIN FROM PUTTING FORWARD PROPOSALS UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSS-IONS AT LUSAKA.

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/I AM LOOKING

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I AM LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SEEING YOU THERE. I HOPE WE SHALL HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS RHODESIA PRIVATELY BEFORE THE PLENARY SESSION. I UNDERSTAND THAT SONNY RAMPHAL HOPES THAT THE DISCUSSION ON RHODESIA WILL START ON THE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY 3 AUGUST. I THINK THIS MAKES GOOD SENSE AND WILL ENABLE US TO TALK ABOUT OTHER SUBJECTS BEFORE THEN. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE A GOOD RESULT ON RHODESIA AND TO AVOID THE ENTIRE MEETING BEING DOMINATED BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. BUT I KNOW I AM PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED ON THAT SCORE.

WITH BEST WISHES,

YOURS SINCERELY,  
MARGARET THATCHER.

CARRINGTON

FILES  
RHOD.D.  
CADS  
N AM D  
NEWS D  
FUSD  
PLANNING STAFF  
ES & SD  
OCD  
FRD  
UND  
LEGAL ADVS (MR. FREELAND)  
(MR. FIFCOOT)  
ECON D  
P & CD  
SEAD

DEF D  
CID  
PS  
PS/SIR I GILMOUR  
PS/MR. LUCE  
PS/MR. RIDLEY  
PS/MR. HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR A DUFF  
SIR A PARSONS  
LORD N G LENNOX  
MISS BROWN  
MR. THOMAS  
MR. WILLSON  
MR. WILLIAMS

ADDITIONAL DISTN.  
RHODESIA POLICY

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