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2



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 August 1979

*ant*  
Prime Minister

*Dear Bryan,*

*MM  
17/8*

Rhodesia

In your letter of 9 August, you asked for advice on President Khama's remarks to the Prime Minister about the need to "work on" President Kaunda,

As Seretse Khama indicated, all the Front Line states are war-weary. They are also dissatisfied with the disunity and - at times - exaggerated claims of the Patriotic Front. But President Machel is strongly committed to support for ZANU (Mugabe) and his attitude to the Rhodesia conflict is influenced by the experience of FRELIMO in Mozambique. President Kaunda is committed to Mr Nkomo. But it is Zambia which has most to gain from a settlement. Lord Carrington agrees therefore that we should work on President Kaunda to exert maximum pressure for a settlement.

Lord Carrington discussed with Lord Harlech yesterday the need for a further visit to Africa at the end of the month to see Presidents Kaunda, Nyerere, Khama and Machel. There are disadvantages, as this could lead to attempts by President Nyerere or others to try to pre-negotiate with us the kind of constitutional proposals we shall be putting forward at Lancaster House. But Lord Harlech would be prepared to make a round of visits if necessary; and we shall in any event be working on the terms of an approach to President Kaunda.

Lord Carrington has sought Mr Day's views on the proposed visit to Salisbury by Mr Blaker and Tony Duff. Mr Day thinks that such a visit could be useful, though he

/would

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CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

would like to give further advice on this next week.  
If Mr Blaker goes to Salisbury, it would be necessary also  
to offer a visit by Lord Harlech to the Front Line States,  
including discussions with the Patriotic Front.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile  
(Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,*  
*Stephen*

(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

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