

PRIME MINISTER

2

Lord Boyd's Report on Rhodesia

P. a.  
18/5

There is one aspect of the observers' report on the Rhodesian elections which Lord Boyd did not mention to you when you saw him yesterday and of which you should be aware.

I saw what

This is that Mr. John Drinkwater, who is, as you know, a QC and a member of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission, took the view that because he held judicial office he should distance himself very slightly from Lord Boyd and the other members of the team and submit a separate report to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of the day and to you. Mr. Drinkwater in fact travelled in Rhodesia with Lord Boyd and the other observers, for security reasons, but there were one or two meetings in which he did not take part.

His individual report, of which I attach a copy (Lord Carrington also has one) is well written and comes to virtually the same conclusions as Lord Boyd's, i.e. that in all the circumstances the Rhodesian elections were as fair as could reasonably be devised and amounted to a free expression of the will of the majority.

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Nevertheless, the fact that there are two reports could create slight presentational problems (e.g. Mr. Drinkwater's report might be represented as a "minority report") and Lord Carrington will be giving you advice on this as soon as possible.

gm.

Thankyou - I was surprised to see the extra report when I looked at Lord Boyd's last week.

15 May 1979