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CHURCH OF THE PROVINCE OF CENTRAL AFRICA
The Diocese of Mashonaland

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FROM THE BISHOP OF MASHONALAND

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SALISBURY, RHODESIA.

The Rt; Honourable, the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.

22 Aug 79

Dear Prime Minister,

You kindly received and replied to a letter of mine a few weeks ago. This has encouraged me to set down for you a sequence of thoughts about this country at the present time. I travel the country very widely, and have just returned from taking Services in a Protected Village close to the Mozambique border. I therefore listen to very many and varied opinions. In the light of these, I believe the following to be true:-

1. Unless strong reassurance for the future comes by next November, very many European and African farmers will not plant for the 1980 season, and, from this, grave economic collapse would begin throughout the nation.
2. An immediate consequence of this would be that very many Europeans would leave this country under their "contingency plans", and the situation would worsen rapidly.
3. Many risked their lives to produce with infinite labour a basically fair and free Election last April. They would not do this again, so that another Election would merely give power to the strongest intimidator.
4. Shona people vote for the strongest man, not the most suitable man when they are fearful. This is the sensible logic of expediency if one cannot defend oneself.
5. The present Security Forces can contain the military situation, but cannot prevent what has already largely happened - the collapse of the fabric of community living and law and order.
6. The present course of affairs and the postponement of the lifting of Sanctions would mean a continual erosion until a Marxist take-over of a totally ruined society and economy. Only recognition of the present Government can de-escalate the war. Recognition would produce not a bang, but a deflated whimper from the Front Line States.

I am, Madam, yours sincerely,

+ *Paul Mashonaland*