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Subject on: Rhodesia  
Situation: FT 8

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T130D/79T.**

GR 650

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FM F C O 301105Z OCT 79

TO IMMEDIATE LAGOS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 818 OF 30 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 351 TO DAR ES SALAAM: RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SHAGARI:-

1. RICHARD LUCE HAS GIVEN ME AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH YOU ON 24 OCTOBER ABOUT RHODESIA AND OUR PROPOSALS FOR THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE APPRECIATION YOU EXPRESSED OF OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP YOU IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO LACK OF DETERMINATION ON OUR PART IN SEEKING TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE.
2. WE NOW HAVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS. THEY QUESTION THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE PLAN WE HAVE PUT FORWARD, NAMELY THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT AT LUSAKA, ELECTIONS SHOULD BE SUPERVISED UNDER BRITISH AUTHORITY, WITH COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS PRESENT.
3. AS YOU KNOW, MY GOVERNMENT REGARD IT AS BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE, TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FAIR AS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. WE ARE TAKING ACTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT. WE ARE READY TO CARRY OUT TO THE FULL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE DE-COLONISING POWER. BUT WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GO WELL BEYOND THAT AGREEMENT OR WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO EXERCISE OUR AUTHORITY. IT IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL HAVE TO ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RHODESIA IN THIS PERIOD.

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4. WE WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO DO SO UNDER CONDITIONS AND FOR A PERIOD IN WHICH WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS NOT A COMPLICATED TRANSITIONAL STRUCTURE, WHICH WOULD RENDER IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY, BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO BE ENABLED TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT GOVERNMENT THEY WANT IN FAIR ELECTIONS. THE LONGER THE INTERIM PERIOD LASTS BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES THE GREATER WILL BE THE RISK OF A BREAK-DOWN OF THE CEASE-FIRE. IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE'S INTERESTS AND IN THOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THAT OPPORTUNITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER POWER TO ANY PARTY WHICH HAS NOT WON IT THROUGH ELECTIONS. BUT THE PARTIES MUST BE PREPARED TO STAND BY THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION, WHATEVER IT MAY BE.

5. WHAT WE MUST SEEK IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES ON THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTEREIM PERIOD - NAMELY THE RE-ASSERTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY, A GOVERNOR WITH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXERTING DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS. THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD INVOLVE BISHOP MUZOREWA AND HIS MINISTERS RELINQUISHING POWER TO ENABLE NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS, WHICH INVOLVE VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR HIM, IN THE INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT UNLIKE SOME PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PUT THESE PLANS INTO EFFECT. IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PROCEED TO THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH MUST CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE VERY MUCH EASIER TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THAT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF PRIOR AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF BRITISH AUTHORITY AND OUR GENERAL PROPOSALS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD.

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6. I HOPE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, WILL ACCEPT THE SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS. IN THAT EVENT A SOLUTION WILL BE WITHIN OUR GRASP.

7. I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO NIGERIA THAT THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY AND WITH JUSTICE. THIS WE ARE TRYING EARNESTLY TO ACHIEVE. I SHALL BE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU CAN GIVE US IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.

CARRINGTON

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