

IMMEDIATE

RODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES] 28

PS  
PS/SIR I GILMOUR  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR D MAITLAND  
MR DAY  
MR ASPIN

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
MR R L WADE GERY )  
MR P M MAXEY ) CABINET  
MR GOULTY ) OFFICE  
MR W N WENBAN SMITH )  
DIO )

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HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D  
HD/S AF D  
HD/UND  
HD/PUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT

HD/WAD  
PS/SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER RMK200A

IMMEDIATE

RESIDENT CLERK

GPS 460

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 281200Z SALISBURY

DESKBY 281200Z FCO

FM MAPUTO 281025Z FEBRUARY 80

TO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY

TELEGRAM NUMBER 221 OF 28 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE FCO DAR ES SALAAM LUSAKA LAGOS

YOUR TELNO 136: RHODESIA

1. MUGABE ONLY ARRIVED AT 10.00 PM LOCAL YESTERDAY AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE TILL 09.45 TODAY. HE WAS NOT TO BE MOVED.
2. DOBLE EXPRESSED ON THE LINES OF TUR YOUR GRAVE CONCERN AND ASTONISHMENT AT MUGABE'S MOVEMENTS, AFTER HE HAD AGREED TO VISIT ALL THE ASSEMBLY POINTS (APS) ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. HE ADDED THAT AT THIS MOST CRITICAL AND DELICATE TIME MUGABE'S PRESENCE IN RHODESIA SEEMED VITAL. ALL CONCERNED WITH THE APS, COMMONWEALTH, RHODESIAN AND ZANU (PF) PERSONNEL ALIKE, NEEDED REASSURANCE AND A GUARANTEE OF STABILITY. ONLY HE COULD PROVIDE THIS, BY PERSONALLY TELLING HIS MEN TO STAY CALM AND STAY PUT. THERE HAD BEEN INSTANCES WHERE RADIO INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY IGNORED BY ZANU (PF): THERE WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HIM, AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GIVING HIS ORDERS PERSONALLY.

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3. MUGABE, IN RELAXED MOOD, SAID THAT YOU HAD NO NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT HIS MEN LEAVING THE APS. HE HAD GIVEN ORDERS BY RADIO, WHICH YOU HAD AWELCOMED, FOR THEM TO STAY. THESE WOULD BE OBEYED. IN ADDITION HIS VICE PRESIDENT AND MILITARY COMMANDER, NHONGO, WOULD TOGETHER REPEAT THIS ORDER IN PERSON AT EACH AP. WHEN DOBLE QUERED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MUZENDA'S ORDERS, MUGABE SAID THAT THE WHOLE BUSINESS OF THE APS HAD GONE SMOOTHLY, WITHOUT HIM HAVING VISITED THEM AT ANY STAGE; DOBLE COMMENTED THAT IF HIS MEN HAD NOT SEEN THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AT ALL SINCE THE CEASEFIRE, IT SEEMED ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO VISIT THEM HIMSELF NOW, WHEN THEY MUST BE ON EDGE. HE INSISTED THAT HE HAD TO "WIND UP OUR AFFAIRS" HERE AND HAD TO HAVE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENTS MACHEL AND NYERERE (LATTER ON 1 MARCH). ALSO GENERAL WALLS HAD HAD TALKS HERE, WHICH HE SEEMED TO CONSIDER AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT; HE NEEDED TO HEAR FROM THE MOZAMBICANS EXACTLY WHAT HAD BEEN SAID. HE WOULD RETURN TO SALISBURY ON DETA ON SUNDAY 2 MARCH. HE ALSO REITERATED SEVERAL REQUIREMENTS, WHICH HE SAID HE HAD PUT TO YOU, TO ASSURE ZANU(PF) OF THEIR SECURITY (RHODESIAN DEMOBILISATION, RETURN TO BARRACKS, REMOVAL OF HEAVY WEAPONS FROM THE STREETS ETC). HE MENTIONED HIS MEETING WITH GENERAL WALLS, AS IF THEY HAD ESTABLISHED SALISFACTORY LIAISON. BUT HE IS NEVERTHELESS WORRIED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF A WHITE COUP.

4. DOBLE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED TO FERRAO (SECRETARY GENERAL MFA), OUR VERY GREAT CONCERN AT MUGABE'S ABSENSE FROM THE COUNTRY. HE UNDERTOOK TO TELL THE PRESIDENT AT ONCE OF OUR REQUEST THAT HE SHOULD URGE MUGABE TO RETURN BY FRIDAY NIGHT. FERRAO WAS SURPRISED AND CRITICAL OF MUGABE FOR LEAVING RHODESIA AT THIS JUNCTURE. KHAN (MFA) LATER TOLD CHISSANO THAT WE WOULD LIKE THE MOZAMBICANS TO GET MUGABE TO RETURN ON FRIDAY. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE ANY MORE SUCCESS THAN DOBLE IN GETTING MUGABE TO CHANGE HIS PLANS.

PAPADOPOULOS

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