



Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Agree that the attached  
formulation should be  
sent to the Australians?

15 June, 1979

Dear Bryan,

BM  
11/6

The Prime Minister's Visit to Australia  
30 June - 1 July : RHODESIA

The Australian Prime Minister is concerned about the handling of Rhodesia in public statements during the Prime Minister's visit to Canberra. Australian officials have drafted a passage on Rhodesia for inclusion in a joint statement on the visit. The text is in paragraph 7 of Canberra telegram No 287 enclosed.

[A] /

This is not wholly suitable in its present form. I enclose a revised version based on the Australian draft, which in Lord Carrington's view is fully compatible with our objectives, while taking account of Mr Fraser's concerns about the Commonwealth. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall ask our High Commission in Canberra to propose this to the Australian Government.

Yes - but would prefer  
to say just that  
we dismissed Rhodesia  
have it done  
for ever,  
Stephen

J S Wall

B G Cartledge Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London S W 1

that  
not.

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GRS 1000

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FM CANBERRA 060600Z JUN 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 287 OF 6 JUNE

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 201

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

1. SOME CHANGES IN THE PROGRAMME SUGGESTED IN MY TELEGRAM 273 WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S EARLIER DEPARTURE APART FROM ANY OTHER WISHES SHE MAY HAVE. POSSIBLE REARRANGEMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.
2. WE ALSO HAVE TO CONSIDER THE INVITATION SENT DIRECT TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY TELEGRAM BY THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB TO ADDRESS THEM AT A LUNCH WHICH, IF ACCEPTED, WOULD HAVE TO BE ON JULY 1.
3. I WAS ABOUT TO TELEGRAPH AMENDED RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH EGGLETON AND YEEND WHEN MR FRASER GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN PERSONALLY. HE IS DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT OF SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER HERE AND WITH THE HIGHLY FAVOURABLE IMPACT WHICH THE VISIT'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAS HAD. HE STILL SHOWED HIMSELF, HOWEVER, AMAZINGLY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS BECAUSE OF HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH RHODESIA. HE SPOKE ONCE MORE ON THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF MY TELEGRAM 272 EMPHASISING HIS WORRY THAT, ALTHOUGH WE HAD THE SAME OBJECTIVES, THERE WERE STILL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US ON RHODESIA. HE ARGUED THAT ANY RETURN TO LEGALITY MUST HAVE AT LEAST THE TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF THE FRONT LINE STATES AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, OTHERWISE RECOGNITION WOULD SIMPLY ENSURE THAT THE AFRICANS WOULD DESTROY BISHOP MUZCREWA'S ZIMBABWE WITH RUSSIAN AND CUBAN SUPPORT, THE COMMONWEALTH WOULD BE SPLIT AND MOTIONS TO EXPEL BRITAIN FROM THE COMMONWEALTH WOULD BE MOVED AND PERHAPS CARRIED AT LUSAKA. I ARGUED THAT HE WAS EXAGGERATING THE DIFFERENCES, THAT YOU WERE MOVING WITH GREAT CIRCUMSPECTION AND THAT

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/ BRITISH POLICY

BRITISH POLICY WAS NOT SIMPLY TO GO AHEAD WITH RECOGNITION WITHOUT PREPARATION OR CONSULTATION EVEN THOUGH THE SIX PRINCIPLES HAD BEEN LARGELY MET. IT WAS RATHER THAT THERE WAS A NEW REALITY IN RHODESIA ON WHICH WE SHOULD BUILD AND THAT YOUR OBJECTIVE WAS TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH DE-ESCALATING THE WAR AND SEEKING WIDE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION, EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS TO THAT END WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY.

4. MR FRASER REVERTED TO THE THESIS THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED UNDER QUESTIONING THAT THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US ON RHODESIA THIS WOULD REDUCE AUSTRALIA'S USEFULNESS AT LUSAKA AND THAT, CONTRARY-WISE, IF WE ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES, THE PRESS WOULD HAVE A FIELD-DAY AND HE WOULD HAVE GREAT TROUBLE WITH HIS OWN BACK-BENCHERS.

5. IT EMERGED THAT MR FRASER'S PREFERENCES (IN DESCENDING ORDER) WOULD BE:

- A) TO TREAT THE VISIT AS PRIMARILY AN OFFICIAL ONE FOR PURPOSES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS, TO BE CONCLUDED BY A JOINT STATEMENT, BUT WITHOUT A PRESS CONFERENCE,
- B) TO HAVE A JOINT STATEMENT, PLUS A TV INTERVIEW BY THE PRIME MINISTER:
- C) AS IN (B) PLUS A HALF HOUR'S VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESS CLUB FOR A TALK OF SAY 15 MINUTES WITH 10 MINUTES FOR QUESTIONS.
- D) A FULL PRESS CLUB LUNCH.

6. MR FRASER AGREES THAT THE CHOICE IN THIS IS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF. I AM PERSONALLY OF THE OPINION THAT A VISIT WITHOUT A PRESS APPEARANCE WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE AND TO DO THEM CREDIT SENIOR AUSTRALIAN

OFFICIALS AGREE WITH THIS. ON BALANCE I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT COURSE C IS THE RIGHT ONE. EGGLETON AGREES (PLEASE PROTECT) AND INSISTS THAT A TV INTERVIEW WITHOUT A WIDER PRESS APPEARANCE WOULD GIVE MUCH PROFESSIONAL DISSATISFACTION. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

7. MR FRASER HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED HIS OFFICIALS TO START DRAFTING POSSIBLE SECTIONS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOU AND THEY HAVE ALREADY PRODUCED, SUBJECT TO HIS APPROVAL, THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION AS THE KERNEL OF THE PASSAGE ON RHODESIA:

''BOTH LEADERS EXPRESSED THEIR FIRM INTENTION, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND AND TRADITIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, TO WORK FOR MODERATION AND RECONCILIATION ON THE PRESSING ISSUE OF RHODESIA AND TO DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS TO BRINGING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THAT COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS, A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD COMMAND COMMONWEALTH AND REGIONAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS THAT OF THE WIDER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY''.

8. PLEASE SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

TEBBIT

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FILES  
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P & C D  
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PS/PUS  
SIR A DUFF  
MR CORTAZZI  
MR MURRAY  
MR WILLIAMS