

CONFIDENTIAL MINISTER'S

PERSONAL

73/95

SERIAL No. ....

CPS 250

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 131500Z

FM FCO 131409Z AUG 79

TO IMMEDIATE KHARTOUM

TELEGRAM NUMBER 147 OF 13 AUGUST

MASTER

Original

Rhodesia Pt 5

Rule ma

Gen

14/8

RHODESIA

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT NINEIRI FIRST THING TOMORROW 14 AUGUST.

BEGINS:

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

YOUR CONCERN FOR THE STABILITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND YOUR DESIRE THAT RHODESIA SHOULD PROGRESS TO GENUINE MAJORITY RULE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THAT STABILITY ARE WELL-KNOWN TO ME. YOU WERE ALSO GOOD ENOUGH TO GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR VIEWS ON RHODESIA DURING THE RECENT VISIT WHICH RICHARD LUCE PAID TO YOUR COUNTRY.

I HOPE YOU WILL SHARE MY VIEW THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN LUSAKA ON 5 AUGUST PROVIDES US WITH A REAL POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT AGREEMENT, WE ARE ISSUING INVITATIONS TO BISHOP MUZOREMA AND THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ATTEND A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

I AM UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE DIFFICULTIES THAT LIE AHEAD, AND WE SHALL NEED THE HELP OF ALL WHO WISH TO SEE RHODESIA RESTORED TO PEACE AND LEGALITY ON A BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE. I AM SURE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT.

YOURS SINCERELY,

MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS.

/ 2.

CONFIDENTIAL