

FILE

VUS



10 DOWNING STREET

bc Mr Ryder.
cc CO

From the Private Secretary

4 May 1979

Rhodesia

I enclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Prime Minister by the President of the U.A.N.C., Bishop Abel Muzorewa, and which has been delivered to Mrs. Thatcher's office by Professor John Hutchinson. Professor Hutchinson has informed Mrs. Thatcher's political office separately that he would be happy to act, as the Bishop suggests, as a private envoy between the British Government and the Rhodesian regime.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for advice to be prepared urgently, for submission to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary as soon as he is appointed, on how the Prime Minister might respond to Bishop Muzorewa's letter. After discussing the matter with the Prime Minister's Political Secretary, Mr. Richard Ryder, I am suggesting to Mrs. Thatcher that Professor Hutchinson (who has asked Mr. Ryder to telephone him tomorrow) be told that she would prefer to conduct any exchange of messages with the Rhodesian regime through other channels.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

B. G. CARTLEDGE

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.