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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 October 1979

Telephone conversation between the Prime Minister and President Kaunda on 10 October

As you know, the Prime Minister spoke to President Kaunda, at the latter's request, on the telephone this afternoon.

President Kaunda's purpose in arranging the telephone call was to tell the Prime Minister that he was anxious about the "take it or leave it" attitude that seemed to be creeping into the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's running of the Conference. He expressed concern about the "ultimatum" that Lord Carrington had given to the leaders of the Patriotic Front. He had sent a letter to the Prime Minister which should arrive early tomorrow morning.

The Prime Minister in reply noted that the Conference had already lasted five weeks and that she and Lord Carrington had just been criticized by the speakers at the Conservative Party Conference for not keeping up the momentum. In response to a comment from President Kaunda to the effect that the spirit of co-operation should continue and should not be replaced by a spirit of confrontation, the Prime Minister said that she and Lord Carrington had kept to the letter of the Lusaka communique. The conversation ended with expressions of mutual goodwill.

I have undertaken to ensure that the text of the letter from President Kaunda is passed to Blackpool as rapidly as possible. Assuming the text arrives in the form of a telegram from Sir L. Allinson, I should be grateful if you could arrange for it to be brought over here as soon as it is received.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

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