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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 November 1979

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Dear Michael,

Prime Minister

Agree with?

Yes

Ans - 7/x1

Rhodesia

If the Constitutional Conference breaks within the next week, as a result of the Patriotic Front's failure to accept our proposals for the pre-independence arrangements, it will be important to have demonstrated to the leaders of moderate African opinion that we have done our utmost to reach a settlement on terms which are fair to the Patriotic Front. If they are themselves prepared to associate themselves with our approach in the Conference, this may also encourage them subsequently to support, or at least not to dissent publicly from, a subsequent decision by us to go ahead without the Patriotic Front.

It would help to achieve these objectives if the Prime Minister sent a personal message to selected African Presidents and to King Hassan of Morocco in terms of the enclosed draft. If the Prime Minister agrees, we will arrange to have this sent by telegram to the posts indicated.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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