

ops

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL NO.

T40/79T

T40/79T

Original copied

Rhodesia - Sit Part 2

CAB/WTE 001/07

OO WTE
DE CAB £1347 1880915
ZNY MMNSH
O 070910Z JUL 79
FM CABINET OFFICE LONDON
TO WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON
ZEM

S E C R E T
TELNO MISC 059 DATED 7 JULY 1979.
FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR PRESIDENT CARTER WHITE HOUSE
FROM PRIME MINISTER THATCHER.

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

THANK YOU FOR TELEPHONING ME ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH YOU WILL BE HAVING WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA IN WASHINGTON. I UNDERTOOK TO LET YOU HAVE OUR IMPRESSIONS OF DAVID HARLECH'S CONSULTATIONS IN AFRICA AND WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA. THESE FOLLOW THIS MESSAGE.

IN YOUR TALKS WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA, IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU WOULD IMPRESS ON HIM THE NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH US TO ENABLE US TO FULFIL OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA SHOULD BE MADE TO FEEL THAT WE DO REALISE THE FULL EXTENT OF THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE. IT IS OUR CONCERN TO BRING RHODESIA TO INDEPENDENCE IN CONDITIONS WHICH OFFER THE PROSPECT OF A MORE SECURE AND STABLE FUTURE. TO THAT END WE MUST WORK TO SECURE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. BUT WE NEED HIS TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING AND HELP IF WE ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

PETER CARRINGTON AND I WILL BE HOLDING TALKS WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA IN LONDON ON 13 JULY. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE AN ACCOUNT OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. WE SHALL WISH TO KEEP IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH WITH YOU AS WE SEE THE WAY AHEAD.

WITH BEST WISHES, MARGARET THATCHER.

£1347

NNNN

SENT AT 070927Z JM

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

ops

LORD HARLECH'S CONSULTATIONS.

1. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS TO BUILD ON THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN RHODESIA TO BRING THE TERRITORY TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.
2. WE HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH WE HOPE WILL HELP TO INDICATE HOW BEST WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH LORD HARLECH HAS HAD WITH AFRICAN LEADERS SO FAR HAVE SUGGESTED THAT:
 - (A) THERE IS A DISPOSITION IN AFRICA TO ACCEPT THAT THE ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA HAVE CREATED A NEW REALITY AND THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERABLE POPULAR SUPPORT. FEW DISPUTE THE NEED FOR SPECIAL MEASURES TO REASSURE THE WHITE MINORITY IN RHODESIA OR THE PRINCIPLE OF SOME SPECIAL REPRESENTATION FOR WHITES IN PARLIAMENT:
 - (B) THERE IS A GENERAL CONVICTION THAT AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WILL HAVE TO STEM FROM BRITAIN AS THE LEGAL AUTHORITY:
 - (C) SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD NEED TO INCLUDE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (IN PARTICULAR IN RELATION TO THE BLOCKING POWER OF THE WHITES IN PARLIAMENT AND INDICATIONS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER OVER THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE DEFENCE FORCES): AND
 - (D) THERE SHOULD BE A FINAL ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A WIDER AGREEMENT WHICH COULD BRING AN END TO THE WAR. (IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FAIL TO RESPOND TO A GENUINE ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THEM THAT WOULD CREATE A NEW SITUATION).
3. WHEN LORD HARLECH MET BISHOP MUZOREWA IN SALISBURY ON 3 AND 4 JULY, HE PUT THESE POINTS TO HIM AND STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ALLOWING OTHERS TO IMPOSE A VETO ON PROGRESS. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE DETERMINED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE CHANGES WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN RHODESIA TO WORK FOR AN EARLY SOLUTION. BUT IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO CARRY OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS WITH US. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF STABILITY AND PROSPERITY FOR RHODESIA THAT WE SHOULD SEEK ALSO TO CARRY AS MUCH AFRICAN OPINION AS POSSIBLE WITH US. BY THESE MEANS WE SHOULD BE AIMING TO ACHIEVE A DE-ESCALATION OF THE WAR: AND THIS WAS IN OUR VIEW THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH WE COULD HELP. THE BISHOP'S REAL NEED WAS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE: THIS WAS THE WAY TO BRING AN END TO THE WAR.
4. BISHOP MUZOREWA RESENTED THE UNFAIRNESS, AS HE SEES IT, OF OTHERS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE PASSING UNFAVOURABLE JUDGEMENT ON A SETTLEMENT WHICH THE PARTIES IN RHODESIA HAVE WORKED OUT THEMSELVES. BUT HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF OUR WILLINGNESS, WHICH LORD HARLECH EMPHASISED, TO WORK WITH HIM FOR A SOLUTION.
5. LORD HARLECH'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BISHOP'S GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING MR MUNDAWARARA AND MR DAVID SMITH) ACCEPT THAT SOME CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION MAY NEED TO BE MADE. THEY WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE CHANGES WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF UNDERMINING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY. WE TOO ACCEPT THE NEED TO RETAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY.
6. LORD HARLECH ALSO SAW MR IAN SMITH, WHO NO LONGER APPEARED TO BE PLAYING A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS AN EXPECTATION IN SALISBURY THAT HE WOULD LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT BY THE TIME SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED OR INDEPENDENCE GRANTED.

WITH BEST WISHES MARGARET THATCHER.

£1348

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T40a/79T

NNNN

SENT AT 070938Z JM
RECD AT 070938Z
AND QSL AT 0939K KKK
TKS

Subject copied to
Rhodesia-Sit-Pe 3

179T

Past a
copied

Rhodesia

Subject copied
Rhodesia