



CF to note

PPS in GR



Rhodesia D

cc FCO  
FRODS

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 October 1979

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 1 October about your recent visit to South Africa and your contacts with Rhodesians there. I am grateful to you for letting me know your impressions.

I know that it came as a disappointment to many Rhodesians that we did not at once proceed to grant legal independence to the government established by Bishop Muzorewa following the April elections, and to lift sanctions. But, as we had said in our manifesto, we believed that it was of crucial importance to Rhodesia to gain international acceptance. It would have been of little help to Rhodesia if we had recognised and lifted sanctions on our own: it was quite clear from our consultations that no other government would have followed suit. Rhodesia, though legally independent, would have remained isolated and the conflict might well have intensified. If we had gone down this road we should not have fulfilled our responsibilities to the people of Rhodesia. The understanding we reached at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka provided a new basis for an internationally acceptable settlement. It was significant that all concerned acknowledged Britain's responsibility

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and there was agreement that there should be an end to hostilities and the lifting of sanctions as part of the process of reaching a settlement.

Bishop Muzorewa's acceptance of our constitutional proposals is a major step forward and I hope the Patriotic Front, too, will accept. We have now reached the stage where we must move on to deal with arrangements for implementing the Constitution. We must do all we can to keep the support of Rhodesia's neighbours if we are to end the war - but I can assure you that there will be no question of allowing anyone to exercise a veto or to block progress on the basis of our proposals.

*Y  
Muzorewa*

*Rapera*

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Mrs. Jill Knight, M.B.E., M.P.