



Content for attached
messages to go
in your name?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 August 1979

Dear Mike,

MAP
10/1000

Yes.

1.
FCO informed. See
13/4
P.A.
do please see and
do Surrender -
Siberia never.

RHODESIA: CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

As agreed, instructions will shortly be sent to Posts instructing them to deliver invitations on 14 August to Bishop Muzorewa and the Patriotic Front to attend a Constitutional Conference in London on 11 September.

This will be the first step in implementing the agreement on Rhodesia reached in Lusaka. This agreement has been widely welcomed. It will be important in the coming weeks to maintain the momentum it has generated and the goodwill towards us that is widely felt as a result. For that reason, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thinks that it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send personal messages to the Heads of State or Governments of those countries which are either closely involved in the Rhodesia problem or are inclined to be sympathetic and have influence over others or which, because of their special relations with us, could feel entitled to keep in close touch with developments. In our view the Heads of Government who would particularly appreciate such messages are: the old Commonwealth, and Mr Manley as a member of the group which met in Lusaka, the three Commonwealth Front Line states and the African countries recently visited by Mr Luce, and Gabon as a Security Council Member. Lord Carrington also recommends that a message should go to General Obasanjo in Lagos; it is true that the Prime Minister has only recently sent him a message but the Nigerians are particularly appreciative of such messages and are of course well placed to damage our interests if dissatisfied with the way things were going.

Lord Carrington proposes to send messages himself to the Japanese Foreign Minister, and the EEC Foreign Ministers. In view of our recent exchanges with Pretoria we do not think a further message to the South Africans is necessary at this stage; Mr Leahy is aware that we are considering the possibility of a visit to Pretoria by a senior official or a Minister in the course of the next ten days. Lord Carrington saw Ambassador Brewster this afternoon and will be recommending a further message from the Prime Minister to President Carter in due course.

/I enclose

Mike Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street



--- I enclose draft telegrams to the Posts concerned containing possible texts. The subject matter is much the same in each case but for presentational reasons we have introduced variations in the wording. The messages would be delivered on Tuesday, 14 August at about the time when the invitations are being delivered.

*Yours ever,
Stephen*

(J S Wall)