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Rhodesia Situation
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TO IMMEDIATE LAGOS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 933 OF 10 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK

NIPT: RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE.

EGINS:

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

THIS MORNING IN THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE LORD CARRINGTON MADE A FINAL PRESENTATION OF OUR DETAINED PROPOSALS FOR A CEASE-FIRE.

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PROPOSING A CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION ON WHICH THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF BOTH SIDES WILL BE REPRESENTED AND WHICH WILL HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISING THE CEASE-FIRE. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE COMPLIANCE OF THEIR FORCES WITH THE CEASE-FIRE WILL REST WITH THE COMMANDERS ON BOTH SIDES.

WE ARE PROPOSING THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT PLACES IN THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS, WHERE THEIR SECURITY, ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CAN BE PROVIDED FOR. THEY WILL ASSEMBLE WITH THEIR ARMS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THEIR OWN COMMANDER. THE PROCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL BE RECIPROCAL. PROVIDE THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES IS COMPLETE AND THAT THERE IS A CESSATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF ARMED PATRIOTIC FRONT PERSONNEL FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES INTO RHODESIA, THE PROCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL BE COMPLETE AND THE FORCES WILL NOT BE IN CONTACT AND THE RHODESIAN FORCES WILL NOT NEED TO DEPLOY FROM THEIR COMPANY BASES. WE ARE ALSO PROPOSING A SUBSTANTIAL MONITORING FORCE TO ASSIST WITH THE OBSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE. THE FORCE IS AT PRESENT STANDING BY AND IS READY TO REACH RHODESIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

WE HAVE ALREADY ENACTED THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE: AND THERE IS AGREEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE THAT ELECTIONS IN WHICH

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T164B/79-T

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/ ALL PARTIES

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ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE SHOULD BE HELD UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A BRITISH GOVERNOR WILL FULL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS.

THE APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF LORD SOAMES, A VERY SENIOR CABINET MINISTER, DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE TASK OF BRINGING THE STATE OF REBELLION IN RHODESIA TO AN END AND ENABLING THE COUNTRY TO BE BROUGHT TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE. LORD SOAMES WILL BE LEAVING LONDON TODAY TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN SALISBURY. WHEN HE ARRIVES THERE TOMORROW AND HIS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTED, THE STATE OF REBELLION IN RHODESIA WILL HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END. THE GOVERNOR WILL SET IN HAND IMMEDIATELY THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE WITH AN EQUAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS. HE WILL ALSO SET IN HAND WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO NORMALISE RELATIONS BETWEEN RHODESIA AND THE NEIGHBOURING FRONT LINE STATES. RHODESIA WILL HAVE RETURNED TO LAWFUL GOVERNMENT AS PART OF HER MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS. A BRITISH AUTHORITY IN SALISBURY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROCESS OF FINALISING THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CEASE-FIRE. IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT, FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES, POLICE, ETC. SO THAT THE LOGISTIC AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR THE CEASE-FIRE AND FOR THE SECURITY AND ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER AGREED REQUIREMENTS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES. BRITAIN HAS BEEN URGED FOR MANY YEARS TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY AND TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO DECOLONISE RHODESIA. THIS WE ARE NOW DOING. IT IS OF COURSE ONE OF OUR ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT, PROVIDED THEY ARE PREPARED TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE TEST IN FREE ELECTIONS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CAMPAIGN PEACEFULLY. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT, WITH GOODWILL, FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THE CEASE-FIRE CAN BE REACHED IN LONDON IN THE NEXT ONE OR TWO DAYS. WE WOULD WISH TO SEE THE CEASE-FIRE COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, THEREBY SPARING THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES ANY FURTHER

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SUFFERING OF THE KIND THEY HAVE HAD TO BEAR FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

I AM THEREFORE TAKING ACTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AT LUSAKA AND TO DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND OF ELECTIONS HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ACCEPT THE CEASE-FIRE PROPOSALS AND TO AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT IN TO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. IF WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS, WE SHALL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING WHICH IS OF THE GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE NOT ONLY FOR RHODESIA BUT FOR ALL OF AFRICA.

A SETTLEMENT IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUR OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND FULLY INTEND TO DO SO. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS.

YOURS SINCERELY,
MARGARET THATCHER.
ENDS.

CARRINGTON

FILES

RHOD D
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NENAD
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LEGAL ADVISERS
(MR STEEL)
(MR FREELAND)
(MR FIFOOT)
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