



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 May 1979

Dear Bryan,

Rhodesian Elections: Report of UK Observers

Your letter of 14 May recorded that Lord Boyd had told the Prime Minister that there would be no objection to publication of his report, subject to the deletion of "two appendices on the psychology of the Africans" (which were not in the end included with the text which he sent to the Prime Minister of 16 May).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thinks it inappropriate to publish Lord Boyd's report as a White Paper, since it was not compiled under Government auspices. He believes it should however, be made generally available quickly with the existing appendices, by:

- (a) laying copies in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament;
- (b) releasing copies to the press through FCO News Department; and
- (c) sending copies to posts abroad for the information of governments and others.

The separate report on the election by Mr John Drinkwater QC would be made public in the same way at the same time. Mr Drinkwater has no objection to this.

On this basis the report could be laid in both Houses and be made generally available later next week. (I shall be in touch about the precise timing of its release and the line to be taken with the press, which would follow closely the paragraph on Rhodesia in the Lord Privy Seal's speech in the House of Commons today; and Lord Carrington's speech in the House of Lords on 22 May).

Lord Carrington would be grateful for confirmation that the Prime Minister agrees to our proceeding in this way.

I am copying this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Agreed with

Yours ever,
Stephen
 J S Wall

B G Cartledge Esq
 10 Downing Street