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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 March 1980

You and those under your command in the Monitoring Force have received well-earned praise from many quarters for the magnificent way in which the difficult, and at times, perilous task has been carried out in Rhodesia. I should like to add my personal tribute.

That, after years of turmoil, Rhodesia now stands on the threshold of a peaceful and internationally recognised independence owes much to the initiative, perseverance and tact of the Monitoring Force. Their role was unique. The world has seen it as a shining example of the professionalism and resourcefulness of the British soldier and his Commonwealth colleagues.

The Government and the nation have every reason to be proud of you and all who served with you in Rhodesia.

(sgd) Margaret Thatcher

Major-General J. Acland, CBE.

BK