



10 DOWNING STREET

T57/79T

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 August 1979

My dear Bishop Muzorewa,

Mr. Day will have given you the text of the statement on Zimbabwe Rhodesia agreed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government here. We have not wavered from the objective which we set ourselves and which I have described in the House of Commons and to the meeting in Lusaka, namely to bring Zimbabwe Rhodesia to legal independence with wide international acceptance. We now have the agreement of the Commonwealth as a whole that the constitutional responsibility for this rests with the British Government. They welcomed our indication that the next step would be for the United Kingdom to convene a constitutional conference of all the parties concerned. Above all, the Commonwealth have now accepted that it must be a major objective to bring about the cessation of hostilities and an end to sanctions, as part of the process of implementing a lasting settlement.

This is in accordance with the programme I outlined to you. It is left to the British Government to work out detailed proposals and to put these to the parties concerned. I shall be in touch with you shortly about these proposals

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and we shall keep in the closest contact about carrying forward all aspects of our policy.

The Commonwealth has endorsed the need for a negotiated solution to the problem of Zimbabwe Rhodesia. This paves the way for real progress towards the peace that you and all Rhodesians want and need.

You have had to face many challenges since you assumed the leadership of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and I do not underestimate the difficulties ahead. But I hope from what the British Government has done since we came into office, and from our talks together, that you trust our good faith and our determination to work with you to achieve a settlement.

Warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

Bishop Abel Muzorewa

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