

PRIME MINISTER

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Lord Boyd's Report on the Rhodesian Elections

Lord Boyd delivered the top copy of his Report on the Rhodesian Elections, with a covering letter, to No.10 this afternoon. I attach it below.

On a first reading, the Report seems to me to be a remarkably thorough and convincing document. Its publication should be very helpful to the Government's case. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be offering early advice on the method of publication and on how many, if any, of the appendices should be published with the main body of the Report.

Lord Boyd also gave me a letter, which I attach immediately below this minute, which had been given to Lord Colville by the Bishop of Mashonaland and which amplifies the reference in paragraph 41 of the main Report to the use of apparently innocent phrases to influence the conduct of Africans. It is not, of course, recommended that this letter should be published.

Lord Boyd's letter covering the main Report refers to the separate Report (on which I have already put a minute in your box) submitted by Mr. John Drinkwater, Q.C. Lord Boyd has discussed with his fellow observers the question of whether it would be helpful if Mr. Drinkwater's Report were published as well as the main one and their conclusion is that, on balance, it would be a good thing to publish it. I am sure this is right since its existence is bound to become known in any case.

Do you agree that a copy of Lord Boyd's Report should be made available to Mr. Vance as soon as possible?

Yes out. But.

16 May 1979