

Extract from record of meeting between the Prime Minister
and the President of Kenya at 10 Downing Street
on 18 February 1980 at 1220 hrs

Present:

The Prime Minister	President Moi
The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary	The Hon. Charles Njonjo, EGH, MP
Mr. Richard Luce, M.P.	The Hon. Dr. R.J. Ouko, MP
Mr. D.M. Day	The Hon. Dr. Z.T. Onyonka, MP
Mr. J.A. Robson	The Hon. K.N.K. Biwott, MP
Mr. Michael Alexander	The Hon. G.G. Kariuki, MP
Mr. Charles Anson	Mr. J.G. Kiereini
	HE Mr. Shadrack Kimalel

Rhodesia

After welcoming President Moi, the Prime Minister asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to speak on the current situation in Rhodesia. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said he first wished to thank the Kenyan Government for their forthright support for HMG's policies on Rhodesia during and after the Lancaster House Conference. The Kenyan contingent in the monitoring force had been a great success. We were grateful for Kenya's counsels of moderation in the OAU and with fellow members of the Commonwealth. But there was now a serious threat to a successful outcome in Rhodesia because of the high level of intimidation, particularly from ZANU(PF) in Eastern Province. The Governor had had to take powers to counter this. It would be intolerable if Mr. Nkomo and Bishop Muzorewa felt compelled to withdraw from the election, leaving the field to Mr. Mugabe's followers who were the main source of intimidation. Assuming all parties went forward and the poll was successfully carried through, it was still impossible to predict the result. Perhaps nobody would win; and perhaps that would be the best outcome. The danger was that Mr. Mugabe might not accept this, if the poll went against him. The most satisfactory result might be one in which Mr. Nkomo was persuaded to form a coalition government; and one which Mr. Mugabe might be willing to join later.

/President Moi

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President Moi said Kenya hoped that all the parties would join in a government for an independent Zimbabwe. Political support in Zimbabwe depended on tribal groupings, and this made a coalition of all parties the most desirable. He was aware that President Nyerere had been helping Mr. Mugabe. He would give such support as he could to Mr. Nkomo (with whom he had spoken on the telephone the previous day). Mr. Nkomo was the key to the formation of a national government. The Prime Minister said that President Machel had also been helpful.

President Moi said that a satisfactory outcome on Rhodesia was essential. It would be decisive for Namibia and for Southern Africa as a whole. If things went wrong in Rhodesia this would be equally decisive, in the opposite sense: first for Zaire, and perhaps also for Zambia. It was therefore most important that the British Government should continue to give full support to President Kaunda so that he could abandon his project to obtain arms from the Soviet Union. It would be a serious setback if the Russians secured a base in Zambia. He understood why Britain had found it difficult to supply arms to Zambia, but he feared that this might have been a mistake. We must avoid creating an Ethiopian situation by default. The Prime Minister suggested that Kaunda's fears might be allayed if Mr. Nkomo came to power. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary commented that it had been the Rhodesian attack on the Zambian bridges, to which President Kaunda wrongly believed we were privy, that had marred our relations with Zambia.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that, despite the serious current difficulties, we should take heart at what had been achieved since the Lancaster House Conference. Dr. Ouko agreed and said that he had spoken out in defence of Britain at the OAU Meeting in Addis Ababa. The moderates were by no means beaten. After a discussion of the numbers of seats the parties might win, President Moi said that it was vital that Mr. Nkomo, Bishop Muzorewa and Mr. Smith should secure enough seats to form a coalition. If they held together, Mr. Mugabe must lose.

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/Olympic Games