

2 PPS.



Prime Minister
Afce proposal at
A + texts at Flag B?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

You want for medals for
£2,000.

18/3

18 March 1980

Dear Michael,

Order: Chair. A good one
will require more than
£2,000.

Independence Gifts to Rhodesia

Rhodesia is expected to attain independence shortly, and has applied to become a full member of the Commonwealth. It is customary for these occasions to be marked by the presentation of gifts from the Government and from the House of Commons.

A.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury has approved expenditure of up to £4,500 for the Government gift and up to £2,000 for the House of Commons gift to the House of Assembly. We shall be consulting the Government of Zimbabwe after independence about the forms these gifts might take.

We should be grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's approval for the proposed presentations. Once this has been given, it is customary for an announcement to be made by means of an arranged Parliamentary Question, for written reply by the Prime Minister. This is sometimes tabled by the Leader of the Opposition personally. I enclose a suggested draft question, answer and background note. If these proposals are approved, we should be grateful if you could arrange for the PQ to be tabled and answered before the date of independence, now fixed for April 18. We would also wish to have early warning of the date of the PQ so that we may inform the Governor.

I am sending copies of this letter, without enclosures, to Martin Hall (Treasury), David Edmonds (Dept of the Environment), Colin Egerton (Privy Council Office), John Stevens (PS/Leader of the House), David Wright (Cabinet Office), and to C A S S Gordon and Sir Noel Short (House of Commons).

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street
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* 0 5 7 8



BACKGROUND NOTE

INDEPENDENCE GIFTS TO RHODESIA

1. It is the practice for Her Majesty's Government and for the House of Commons to present gifts to Governments and Legislatures respectively to mark the attainment of independence, provided those countries are becoming members of the Commonwealth.
2. It is to be hoped that the Prime Minister will approve the presentation of such gifts to Zimbabwe. The Treasury have sanctioned expenditure of up to £4,500 on the gift from Her Majesty's Government and up to £2,000 on the gift from the House of Commons.
3. If approval is given, the Zimbabwean authorities will be consulted about the forms that the Government and House of Commons gifts might take.
4. The announcement about the gifts, in the form of a written Answer to a Parliamentary Question, should be made before Independence Day.

18 MAR 1960

