

*Seen by PM
and Mr. Ramphal
in Luraka Cabinet
Enter
JG
GJR*

MR CARTLEDGE/MR WHITMORE

The Secretary of State has spoken both to Mr Fraser and one of his aides. Mr Fraser put up only the feeblest pretence that he was not responsible for the leak.

Lord Carrington now thinks that the only way to put matters right is for the Prime Minister to obtain clearance from Mr Ramphal on behalf of the other members of the group that we should explain the text to the UK press, on the strict understanding that this is a draft to be put before the conference tomorrow; and that it is still subject to the approval of the conference.

Lord Carrington thinks that this is the only way through. Otherwise the British press will lead with highly damaging stories about "new elections" under "supervision" with none of the significant detail.

Lord Carrington realises that this would to some extent pre-empt the Prime Minister's press appearance tomorrow. But the story is going to come out in tomorrow morning's press anyway; it is better that it should come out accurately. Moreover, there will be plenty left for the Prime Minister to say.

The matter is clearly urgent: we shall need the approval of the Prime Minister and Mr Ramphal before the press briefing to be given by Mr James tonight: this has now been put back to 7.30pm.

G. G. H. Walden

(G G H Walden)

5 August 1979

PS The text would not be handed over to the press, but the significant portions read to them.