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THIRTY-NINTH PLENARY SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

LANCASTER HOUSE

LONDON

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Summary of the proceedings of the Thirty-Ninth  
Plenary Session of the Conference, Wednesday  
5 December 1979.

Lancaster House

5 December 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Mr R Luce

Sir A Duff

Mr D M Day

Gen M Farndale

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr R Jackling

Col C Dunphie

Mr P J Barlow

Mr S J Gomersall

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mrs A J Phillips

Mr M C Wood

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Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr R G Mugabe	Mr J M Nkomo
Mr E Tekere	Mr J Chinamano
Gen J Tongogara	Mr J Msika
Dr H Ushewokunze	Mr A M Chambati
Mr E Zvobgo	Mr W Musarurwa
Mr W Kamba	Mr D Dabengwa
	Mr R Austin
	Miss E Siziba

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Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Dr S C Mundawarara

Dr J Kamusikiri

Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins

Mr D Zamchiya

Gen P Walls

Mr P Allum

Mr P Claypole

Mr A R MacMillan

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session commenced at 17.16.

THE CHAIRMAN asked whether Mr Mugabe or Mr Nkomo wished to say anything.

MR MUGABE said that his delegation felt that it should make a statement. As the Chairman was aware, his delegation had remained concerned about the disposition of their forces, the grounding of the Rhodesian Air Force and the presence of South African forces. These were issues on which clarification was wanted.

THE CHAIRMAN said that, in relation to the concerns expressed by Mr Mugabe, he could reassure the Patriotic Front delegation:

- (i) that there would be no external involvement in Rhodesia under the British Governor. The position had been made clear to all the governments concerned, including South Africa;
- (ii) that the Rhodesian Air Force would be monitored effectively. The British Government had in mind a monitoring force, adequate to the overall task, in the vicinity of 1200 men.

MR MUGABE said that, in the light of the Chairman's statement of 28 November (Conference Paper CC(79)92) and following discussions with the British delegation, a number of details, including the location and number of places for the disposition of the forces under the British proposals, fell to  
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be dealt with under the implementation of the ceasefire. His delegation now felt that the British proposals for a ceasefire provided the basis for an agreement, and for moving on quickly to settle the details of implementation.

THE CHAIRMAN said that this was very good news, and thanked Mr Mugabe for his delegation's acceptance of the British proposals, as clarified by the Chairman's assurances. The Conference could now move on quickly to the implementation of the proposals; they had reached the very last stage of the negotiations. It was essential to complete them very quickly indeed. Discussion of the implementation of the ceasefire need only take two or three days provided that there was goodwill and everyone worked hard. The Chairman added that he and the Lord Privy Seal had that afternoon said in the two Houses of Parliament that the British Government had plans to send the Governor to Salisbury in a very short space of time. He was now circulating to the Conference copies of the proposed Ceasefire Agreement (Conference Paper CC(79)95) which he invited delegates to study overnight.

DR MUNDAWARARA said that he wished to compliment his brothers for finding a way to make it possible for the Conference to make progress towards a ceasefire. He recognised that this was the most important part of the Conference. The war continued to cause death and suffering every day. If a way could be found to end the war quickly, the people of his

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country would be rendered a great service. Real progress had now been achieved, and for his part Dr Mundawarara had found it easiest to help to achieve progress during this part of the Conference. What was now needed was a quick agreement to bring about peace. His people had been suffering for too long. The war was nothing to be proud of; and no one who understood the realities of the war could threaten to prolong it.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he thought everyone could subscribe to those sentiments. He proposed a further plenary session the following day, at a time to be decided through the usual channels, in order to achieve an agreement as quickly as possible. In conclusion, he thanked both delegations for their cooperation. He trusted that this would be the end of what had been a long Conference but, he hoped, a memorable and successful one.

DR MUNDAWARARA urged the need to move speedily. He and his delegation had very little further time. THE CHAIRMAN thought that this applied to both delegations.

The session ended at 17.23.