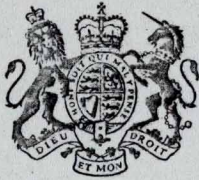


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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1980

Dear Rhodesia,

CALL BY MESSRS. MUGABE AND NKOMO

Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe called on the Prime Minister here on the morning of Friday 21 December. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Lord Privy Seal also attended the meeting.

After congratulations had been exchanged on the successful outcome of the Lancaster House Conference, Mr. Mugabe said that he and Mr. Nkomo had two major issues on their minds. These related to their personal security after their return to Rhodesia and to the presence of South African forces in that country. The Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that they well understood Mr. Mugabe's and Mr. Nkomo's concern about security. Both men could rest assured that this problem would be taken care of. As regards the presence of members of the South African armed forces in Rhodesia, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary repeated the assurance he had given earlier that the Governor would ensure that no external forces were involved in Rhodesia. However, it would be difficult to purge the Rhodesian armed forces of individuals. The Prime Minister, endorsing what the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had said, reminded Mr. Mugabe of her public assurances that there would be no external interference in Rhodesia.

Mr. Mugabe repeated that he was concerned about the presence both of volunteers from South Africa and of units of the South African Army. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that so far as he knew there were no South African units in Rhodesia but he would have this checked. As regards volunteers, the Governor would look into this. Mr. Nkomo pointed out that the South African Prime Minister had said that there were South African troops in Rhodesia and that they were looking after South African interests there.

Mr. Mugabe then referred to the remarks which General Walls had made the previous day about the likelihood of a civil war breaking out if the Patriotic Front won the election. He said

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that if there were to be peace in Rhodesia both sides would have to play their part. He wondered whether General Walls was prepared to do so. The Lord Privy Seal commented that General Walls' remarks had not been helpful. When Mr. Nkomo repeated Mr. Mugabe's question, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that he would be making some remarks on the general question at the conclusion of the signature ceremony that morning. Mr. Nkomo expressed the hope that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would be impartial.

*Yours ever*

*Michael Alexander*

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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