

[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

28

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IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR D MAITLAND
MR DAY
MR ASPIN

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR R L WADE GERY)
MR P M MAXEY) CABINET
MR GOULTY) OFFICE
MR W N WENBAN SMITH)
DIO)

7

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HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D
HD/S AF D
HD/UND
HD/PUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/WAD
PS/SIR I SINCLAIR
MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER RMK200A

RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

no

GRS 300A

SECRET

DESK BY FCO 261000Z FEB 80

DESK BY SALISBURY 261000Z FEB 80

FM CAPE TOWN EMBASSY 2 0745Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TEL NO 160 OF 26 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY, PRETORIA (FOR D A)

YOUR TEL NO 585 TO SALISBURY (NOT TO PRETORIA):

RHODESIA: REFUGEES

1. PIK BOTHA RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH ME YESTERDAY EVENING. HE SAID HE HOPED, INDEED HE ASSUMED, THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO SHARE THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE S A G IF THE WORST CAME TO THE WORST AND STREAMS OF REFUGEES, WHITE AND BLACK, Poured out of RHODESIA INTO SOUTH AFRICA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTION. AS I KNEW THEY HAD RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH US BEFORE.

2. I DID NOT GIVE HIM A DIRECT ANSWER. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING WE SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THEM AND THAT SIR A DUFF'S MEETING WITH HIM ON THURSDAY MORNING WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. HE AGREED.

3. PIK WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY EXERCISED ABOUT BLACK REFUGEES AND HE REMINDED ME THAT ABOUT A MILLION HAD COME TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM ANGOLA IN 1975. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MENTIONED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THIS TO M. FRANCOIS-PONCET LAST WEEK IN PARIS. IF NECESSARY, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THEM TEMPORARILY BUT IT COULD NOT ABSORB ANOTHER INFLUX OF THE SAME ORDER.

4. PIK ONCE AGAIN SAID THAT IF IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO SEND IN TROOPS TO RESCUE FLEEING REFUGEES THE S A G WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK. I SAID THAT EVEN IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH ACTION WOULD BE MISREPRESENTED AND ATTACKED ALL OVER THE WORLD. HE SAID THAT HE REALISED THIS, BUT WOULD EXPECT US TO SUPPORT THEM. AFTER ALL, THEY WOULD BE HELPING US OUT. SURELY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD NOT AFFORD TO ALLOW ITS CITIZENS TO BE KILLED AND MAIMED? AGAIN I SAID THAT WE SHOULD TALK FURTHER ABOUT ALL THIS.

5. WE NOW HAVE THE OPENING FOR A FRANK DISCUSSION OF THIS WHOLE PROBLEM WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

LEAHY

IMMEDIATE

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