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File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 September 1979

Dear George

Call by Mr. Chona

Mr. Chona called on the Prime Minister this morning as arranged. I enclose a copy of the record of their conversation.

It may be worth adding that I asked Mr. Chona after his talk with the Prime Minister whether the Patriotic Front had given any thought to the participation in an election of those of their forces that remained outside the country during the transitional period. Mr. Chona was inclined to dismiss this as a secondary issue: he said it ought to be possible to organise some kind of postal voting but added that the Patriotic Front might be prepared for their forces not to participate in the voting. This last observation seems to be so improbable as to cast some doubt on the degree to which the substance of the message delivered by Mr. Chona on President Kaunda's behalf has in fact been discussed with the Patriotic Front.

You will note that Mr. Chona asked whether there was any message that he could send back to President Kaunda about the Prime Minister's views on the course of the Constitutional Conference. He referred at another point in the discussion to President Kaunda's anxiety for some "feed-back". You may think therefore that the Prime Minister should at some point send President Kaunda a message in reply to that delivered by Mr. Chona.

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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