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NOTE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AT THE END OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN LUSAKA, ON 8 AUGUST 1979

Present

The Prime Minister
Mr. C.A. Whitmore
Mr. B.G. Cartledge

President Kaunda
Mr. Mark Chona

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[At President Kaunda's request the Prime Minister called on him at his Villa in Mulungushi Village, Lusaka, on 8 August at 0910.]

President Kaunda said that he was delighted that the Prime Minister had come to Lusaka. He recognised that the advance build-up given to her visit by the Zambian press had not been very encouraging: but he wished to tell the Prime Minister that in his view the successful outcome of the week's discussions had been due, in no small measure, to the spirit in which the Prime Minister herself had approached them. This had been the first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting she had attended and, naturally, she had come to Lusaka not knowing what to expect. As he had said publicly at the Press Association dinner on 6 August, the Prime Minister would be in his prayers: neither he nor she had an easy task ahead.

After thanking President Kaunda very warmly for his hospitality and for the way in which he had steered the week's discussions to such a successful conclusion, the Prime Minister said that the main difficulty now would be to bring the hostilities to an end. As Lee Kuan Yew had said during the meeting, it was no easy task to persuade people to abandon an armed struggle, since violence tended to become a way of life. Some people actually enjoyed it. It would be necessary to give a very firm lead from the top. The Prime Minister asked President Kaunda whether, in his view, President Machel

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shared their anxiety to bring the fighting to an end. President Kaunda replied that he was certain that President Machel was with them 100 per cent. He was a man with a good political sense and would certainly bring pressure to bear on Robert Mugabe. The Prime Minister told President Kaunda that by early September significant progress should have been made towards a Constitutional Conference.

The Prime Minister congratulated President Kaunda very warmly on the organisation of the Conference which had, she said, been a terrific feat. The President had had to cope with thirty-nine prima donnas and had done so superbly. President Kaunda admitted that he was tired but added that he was also very happy.

The discussion ended at 0930.

B.M.

cc PS/FCO
Sir John Hunt

8 August 1979