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Zimbabwe Relations: Pk2

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 10/82
18 January 1982

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr. Mugabe,

I was very sorry to miss you on your recent visit to London. I look forward to your visit in May and I very much hope that your wife will by then be well enough to accompany you.

I know that Lord Carrington was very pleased to have the opportunity of a discussion with you last week; and I understand that he was able to go over in some detail with you the points which you raised in your letter to me of 15 December. I know that land resettlement is a top priority for you. As I said in my earlier letter, this is why we have undertaken to provide thirty million pounds to meet almost 50 per cent of the cost of the targets you had set at the highly successful Donors Conference last March. As you will appreciate, we cannot embark on further commitments when so little (only one-and-a-half million pounds sterling) of the thirty million pounds already allocated to resettlement has been spent. I know you want to get on with spending the rest of this money effectively and we will continue to do everything we can to assist in this objective. As your Government itself recognised at the Conference, no single donor can provide all Zimbabwe's needs. It is essential that all donor countries should play their part.

On students, I have one point to add to my earlier letter. Your Ministry of Economic Planning has now formally requested that we use £1.7 million of the £75 million pledged at

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Independence to support, over the next three years, some 50-70 Zimbabwe students at present in Britain. I am happy to tell you that we can accept this request.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable R.G. Mugabe