

[RHODESIA: POLICY:

ADVANCE COPIES]

*DEKBY 281900Z*

*x-28*  
*8*

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

**IMMEDIATE**

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 )

MR ASPIN

.....  
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

*(Dues)*

RESIDENT CLERK

SECRET

FM CG JOHANNESBURG 281805Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM 31 OF 28 FEBRUARY 1980

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY AND CAPE TOWN

*MT*

FOLLOWING FROM AMBASSADOR

**RHODESIA/SOUTH AFRICA**

1. **PIK BOTHA** HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME FROM CAPE TOWN (I AM SPENDING TONIGHT IN JOHANNESBURG) IN A GREAT STATE OF EXCITEMENT ON TWO POINTS
2. THE FIRST IS THAT HE HAS HEARD FROM MALAN, WHO GOT IT FROM WALLS, THAT ZANU SUPPORTERS ARE INTIMIDATING PEOPLE OUTSIDE POLLING BOOTHS BY DEMONSTRATING IN LARGE NUMBERS, SINGING AND SHOUTING. I ASKED HIM IF HE WAS SAYING THIS WAS WIDESPREAD OR COULD BE INDICATE WHERE IN PARTICULAR IT WAS HAPPENING. HE SAID THAT WALLS COULD SUPPLY THE DETAILS.
3. THE SECOND MATTER WAS, HE SAID, EVEN MORE SERIOUS. **THE PRIME MINISTER WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT MUGABE WAS PLANNING IN MAPUTO AND DAR ES SALAAM.** THEY DID NOT KNOW WHY HE WAS THERE AND COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT HE WAS ARRANGING FOR **"INDIRECT RUSSIAN SUPPORT"** FOR A COUP AFTER THE ELECTION. WITH THIS PROSPECT THE S.A.G. WERE CONSIDERING PULLING OUT THEIR EQUIPMENT AND MEN IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. THEY COULD NOT

ADVANCE REESTABLISH SUPPORT FOR A COUP AFTER THE ELECTION.  
WITH THIS PROSPECT THE S.A.G. WERE CONSIDERING PULLING OUT THEIR  
EQUIPMENT AND MEN IN THE NEXT 36 HOURS. THEY 'COULD NOT  
AFFORD ANOTHER ANGOLA'. HE REALISED ONLY TOO WELL THAT IF THEY  
DID THIS THEY WOULD PROVOKE THE WHITE EXODUS WE ALL WANTED TO  
AVOID. IT WOULD HELP HIM TO ARGUE IN FAVOUR OF HANGING ON AND  
DOING NOTHING PRECIPITATE IF I COULD TELL HIM QUICKLY THAT WE  
WANTED THEM TO STAY ON AND AT THE SAME TIME GIVE THEM AN ASSURANCE  
THAT IN THAT EVENT WE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT WHO  
HAD WON THE ELECTION OR WHO WOULD FORM THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT  
GIVING THEM AMPLE ADVANCE NOTICE. THATWAY WE COULD CONSULT  
TOGETHER QUICKLY ABOUT WHAT THEY SHOULD DO IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES  
PREVAILING AT THE TIME. THEY CERTAINLY WANTED TO AVOID DOING  
ANYTHING TO EMBARRASS US.

4. I TRIED TO CALM PIK DOWN. I SAID THAT, AS DUFF HAD TOLD HIM  
THIS MORNING, IT SEEMED QUITE LIKELY TO US THAT MUGABE HAD BEEN  
SUMMONED BY MACHEL TO BE TOLD THAT HE MUST MEND HIS FENCES WITH  
NKOMO. HE AGREED BUT INDICATED THAT THERE WAS PROBABLY MORE TO  
IT THAN THAT.

5. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IN HIS CONVERSATION  
WITH DUFF A FEW WEEKS AGO HAD MADE CLEAR HIS PREOCCUPATION OVER  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEN AND EQUIPMENT AND HIS DETERMINATION TO  
AVOID ANOTHER ANGOLA DEBACLE, IS WORKED UP AND IS ON PIK'S BACK.  
I HOPE THEREFORE THAT I CAN BE INSTRUCTED TO TELL PIK TOMORROW  
MORNING THAT WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO HANG ON AND THAT WE WILL KEEP  
THEM CLOSELY INFORMED NEXT WEEK OF HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER  
THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO BE GOING. WE CANNOT,  
HOWEVER, GIVE THEM ANY UNDERTAKING, I ASSUME, TO TELL THEM IN  
ADVANCE WHAT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION ITSELF ARE.

6. I WILL BE BACK IN CAPE TOWN BY 0900Z TOMORROW.

TITCHENER

NNNW