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Subject filed on  
Rhodesia Situation  
Pt. 11

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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T16497aT

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FDESKBY 110100Z

FM F C O 102135Z DEC 79

TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 834 OF 10 DECEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE DACCA ISLAMABAD COLOMBO SINGAPORE KUALA LUMPUR

CAIRO KHARTOUM RABAT LIBREVILLE KINSHASA NAIROBI DAKAR ACCRA

KINGSTON LILONGWE BANJUL SUVA BRIDGETOWN

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK PRETORIA LUANDA

MIRIMBA SALISBURY OTTAWA WELLINGTON NASSAU NICOSIA DAR ES SALAAM

GEORGETOWN LUSAKA PORT LOUIS PORT OF SPAIN FREETOWN GABORONE

PORT MORESBY MASERU LAGOS MBABANE.

RHODESIA : MIPT (NOT TO ALL).

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE :

DEAR (INSERT SUITABLE STYLE OF ADDRESS)

THE OUTCOME OF THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE AT LANCASTER HOUSE IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO AFRICA AND TO THE COMMONWEALTH. I WOULD LIKE TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MATTERS STAND AND TO ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

THIS MORNING IN THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE LORD CARRINGTON MADE A FINAL PRESENTATION OF OUR DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR A CEASE-FIRE.

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PROPOSING A CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION ON WHICH THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF BOTH SIDES WILL BE REPRESENTED AND WHICH WILL HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISING THE CEASE-FIRE. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE COMPLIANCE OF THEIR FORCES WITH THE CEASE-FIRE WILL REST WITH THE COMMANDERS ON BOTH SIDES. WE ARE PROPOSING THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT PLACES IN THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS, WHERE THEIR SECURITY, ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CAN BE PROVIDED FOR. THEY WILL ASSEMBLE WITH THEIR ARMS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THEIR OWN COMMANDERS. THE PROCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL BE RECIPROCAL. PROVIDED THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES IS COMPLETE AND THAT THERE IS A CESSATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF ARMED PATRIOTIC FRONT PERSONNEL FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES INTO RHODESIA, A SUCCESSFUL DISENGAGEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE, THE FORCES WILL NOT BE IN CONTACT, AND THE RHODESIAN FORCES WILL NOT NEED TO DEPLOY

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FROM THEIR COMPANY BASES. WE ARE ALSO PROPOSING A SUBSTANTIAL MONITORING FORCE TO ASSIST WITH THE OBSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE. THE FORCE IS AT PRESENT STANDING BY AND IS READY TO REACH RHODESIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

WE HAVE ALREADY ENACTED THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE ; AND THERE IS AGREEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE THAT ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE SHOULD BE HELD UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A BRITISH GOVERNOR WITH FULL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS. THE APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF LORD SOAMES, A VERY SENIOR CABINET MINISTER, DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE TASK OF BRINGING THE STATE OF REBELLION IN RHODESIA TO AN END AND ENABLING THE COUNTRY TO BE BROUGHT TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE. CHRISTOPHER SOAMES WILL BE LEAVING LONDON TODAY TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN SALISBURY. WHEN HE ARRIVES THERE TOMORROW AND HIS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTED, THE STATE OF REBELLION IN RHODESIA WILL HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END. THE GOVERNOR WILL SET IN HAND IMMEDIATELY THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE, WITH AN EQUAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS. HE WILL ALSO SET IN HAND WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO NORMALISE RELATIONS BETWEEN RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA. RHODESIA WILL HAVE RETURNED TO LAWFUL GOVERNMENT AS PART OF HER MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS. A BRITISH AUTHORITY IN SALISBURY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROCESS OF FINALISING THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CEASE-FIRE. IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT, FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES, POLICE, ETC, SO THAT THE LOGISTIC AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR THE CEASE-FIRE AND FOR THE SECURITY, ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER AGREED REQUIREMENTS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES.

BRITAIN HAS BEEN URGED FOR MANY YEARS TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY AND TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO DECOLONISE RHODESIA. THIS WE ARE NOW DOING. IT IS OF COURSE ONE OF OUR ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT, PROVIDED THEY ARE PREPARED TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE TEST IN FREE ELECTIONS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CAMPAIGN PEACEFULLY. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT, WITH GOODWILL, FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THE CEASE-FIRE CAN BE REACHED IN LONDON IN THE NEXT ONE OR TWO DAYS. WE WOULD WISH TO SEE THE CEASE-FIRE COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, THEREBY SPARING THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES ANY FURTHER SUFFERING OF THE KIND THEY HAVE HAD TO DEAR FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

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I AM THEREFORE TAKING ACTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AT LUSAKA AND TO DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND OF ELECTIONS HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PERSUADE THEM TO ACCEPT THE CEASE-FIRE PROPOSALS AND TO AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.

A SETTLEMENT IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND FULLY INTEND TO DO SO. I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

WITH BEST WISHES  
MARGARET THATCHER.

CARRINGTON

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SIR A DUFF  
MR BULLARD  
MR FRETWELL  
LORD N G LENNOX  
MISS BROWN  
MR DAY  
MR WILLSON  
MR ASPIN

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
RHODESIA POLICY