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CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T37/80

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FM F C O 231455Z FEB 80

TO FLASH MAPUTO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 58 OF 23 FEBRUARY

AND TO FLASH SALISBURY

INFO IMMEDIATE DAR ES SALAAM, LUSAKA, GABORONE, LAGOS, ADDIS ABABA,  
NAIROBI, CAPE TOWN, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, OTTAWA, CANBERRA.

MIPT: RHODESIA: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MACHEL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY:

QUOTE

DEAR PRESIDENT MACHEL,

I HAVE RECEIVED MR DOBLE'S REPORT OF HIS TALK WITH YOU ON 21 FEBRUARY. HE HAS ALSO CONVEYED YOUR GREETINGS FOR WHICH I AM VERY GRATEFUL.

OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE WORKED MOST EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS WE SHARE OF PEACE IN RHODESIA AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE PEOPLE CAN CHOSE THEIR GOVERNMENT FREELY. WE HAVE ADVANCED A VERY LONG WAY TOWARDS THAT GOAL. I HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER OVER THE CRUCIAL WEEKS AHEAD.

ONE OF THE MOST HEARTENING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BRIEF PERIOD SINCE THE GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL IN SALISBURY HAS BEEN THE NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN RHODESIA AND YOUR COUNTRY. THE OPENING OF A LIAISON OFFICE IN SALISBURY, THE RE-OPENING OF THE BORDER, THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, THE SUCCESSFUL RETURN OF THOSE OF YOUR FORCES WHO HAD BEEN FIGHTING IN RHODESIA, HAVE SHOWN THE BENEFITS OF PEACE. NOW IS THE TIME TO CONSOLIDATE THEM AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE PRESERVED. I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT TO THIS PROCESS.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THERE IS NO QUESTION OF BRITAIN AUTHORISING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST ZANU AND MR MUGABE. THERE ARE NINE PARTIES TAKING PART IN THE ELECTIONS. WE SHALL ACCEPT THE OUTCOME REGARDLESS OF WHICH OF THEM, EITHER SINGLY OR IN COMBINATION, IS ABLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WITH A MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. WE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH THEIR POLICIES: IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO CHOOSE WHICH PARTY OR PARTIES SHALL GOVERN. OUR LEGITIMATE CONCERN IS IN SEEING STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AT LANCASTER HOUSE. THE GOVERNOR HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BREACHES OF THESE AGREEMENTS AND UNDERTAKINGS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHICH PARTY THEY BELONG TO. WHERE EXAMPLES OF MISBEHAVIOUR BY THE AUXILIARIES OR THE RHODESIAN FORCES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE GOVERNOR'S ATTENTION, HE HAS INVESTIGATED THEM AND TAKEN DISCIPLINARY ACTION. HE HAS ALSO TAKEN MORE GENERAL POWERS TO DEAL WITH INTIMIDATION BY ANY PARTY. HE HAS MADE ONLY VERY LIMITED USE OF THESE POWERS SO FAR. I HOPE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE CAUSE TO USE THEM MORE EXTENSIVELY BUT I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT A FAIR ELECTION CANNOT TAKE PLACE WHERE INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS IS ALLOWED: IT IS VITAL THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO PUT A STOP TO IT. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL USE YOUR UNDOUBTED INFLUENCE TO THIS END.

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I CAN GIVE YOU A FIRM ASSURANCE THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OUR PLANNING WITH ANY PARTY OR ANY GOVERNMENT FOR MR MUGABE TO LOSE THE ELECTIONS OR TO CLOSE THE FRONTIER WITH MOZAMBIQUE. NOR WOULD BRITAIN CONDONE ANY EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA. IN THE LIGHT OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE, STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT OUR VIEWS ARE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD.

I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT CONTINUED BROADCASTS BY QUOTE VOICE OF FREE AFRICA UNQUOTE AND SUPPORT FROM RHODESIAN TERRITORY FOR OPPONENTS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. AS MR HONWANA WAS INFORMED ON 9 FEBRUARY, STRICT INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN THAT BROADCAST OF RADIO FREE AFRICA SHOULD BE SUSPENDED. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO ASSURE HIM THAT ALL RHODESIAN SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY HAD CEASED. IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, IT WOULD BE A VERY SERIOUS MATTER AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO ME URGENTLY ANY EVIDENCE WHICH YOU HAVE. AS I HAVE TOLD YOU, OUR AIM IS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE SHOULD BE PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY. I HOPE, EQUALLY, THAT YOU WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT ANY PARTY WHICH, AFTER THE ELECTIONS, SOUGHT TO RETURN TO THE WAR.

THE ELECTIONS FOR WHICH WE HAVE WORKED ARE NOW ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS AWAY. I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, REMEMBERING THAT WE ARE ONLY A FEW SHORT WEEKS AWAY FROM THE END OF A SAVAGE WAR, AND THAT ALL PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THEM ON AN EQUAL FOOTING. I KNOW THAT MANY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM MR MUGABE AND HIS FOLLOWERS OF BIAS AGAINST THEM. THE COMPLAINTS WHICH WE RECEIVE FROM OTHER PARTIES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PUT AT A DISADVANTAGE HAVE BEEN NO LESS FORCEFUL. THIS IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED IN ELECTIONS HELD UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. BUT WE HAVE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA CAN CHOSE THEIR GOVERNMENT FREELY, AND THERE ARE NOW OVER 100 OFFICIAL OBSERVERS FROM MANY COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS PRESENT IN RHODESIA TO SEE THAT THIS IS THE CASE.

I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT GENERAL WALLS IS TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE. I KNOW THAT LORD SOAMES ALSO HOPES FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD REMAIN IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH. WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT WE CAN, AND WILL, SUCCESSFULLY DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

WITH MY BEST WISHES.  
MARGARET THATCHER.

UNQUOTE.

CARRINGTON

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OADS

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PLANNING STAFF

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PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR MARTEN

PS/FUS

SIR D MAITLAND

SIR A ACLAND

LORD N G LENNOX

MR DAY

MR FERGUSSON

MR ASPIN

MR MILLS

CPO

ADDITIONAL DIST  
RHODESIA POLICY