

CONFIDENTIAL

fa. 1/1/79



Prime Minister: This may come to a vote in the middle of the night. Sir A. Parsons is working to secure a text on which we could abstain. But he is under instructions to veto if the reference to the responsibility of the administering power remains in.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 November 1979

Dear Michael,

Rmt. 23/11

UN Security Council

We discussed the line which the Prime Minister might take on the Security Council debate if President Kaunda comes through on the telephone later today. The Zambians have tabled a Resolution which would condemn acts of aggression against them, hold the administering power responsible, and set up a fact finding mission to report. If we are unable to secure amendments, we shall have to veto this Resolution: otherwise we could be held legally responsible for the damage caused in Zambia and face claims for reparations. The Resolution may come to a vote tonight.

The Prime Minister could say to President Kaunda that we hope our two permanent representatives in the Security Council can concert their position in New York so that the Security Council debate does not make it harder to achieve a settlement. The Prime Minister might also wish to warn President Kaunda that the British Government would not be able to accept a Resolution purporting to hold the administering power responsible for the Rhodesian raids. She could remind the President that we cannot be responsible for Rhodesian actions until a British Governor arrives in Salisbury.

If the Zambian proposal leads to a prolonged debate, continuing next week, the debate is likely to range widely over matters concerned with a Rhodesian settlement: and there may be attempts to take pre-emptive action to our disadvantage on the lifting of sanctions. Our present intention therefore is to try to ensure that the debate comes to a conclusion rapidly.

*yours ever
Rodene Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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