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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

Agree to reply to President Nyerere in the terms of the draft telegram below? GH 7/17

17 July 1979

Dear Bryan,

amb

Rhodesia: President Nyerere's Letter

FCO informed
P.A.
GH
19/7

[Signed original now OK?]

President Nyerere wrote to the Prime Minister on 10 July about Rhodesia (Dar-es-Salaam telno 576 enclosed).

The approach outlined by President Nyerere would involve us in seeking to negotiate at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka a new Constitution for Rhodesia and arrangements under which new internationally supervised elections would be held. This is not at all the manner in which we intend to proceed. It will be an important part of our strategy to avoid a discussion at Lusaka of detailed constitutional proposals, which could only lead to attempts to impose a fresh set of conditions for the granting of independence.

In Lord Carrington's view, it is undesirable to show our hand in advance of the Commonwealth Conference. Lord Carrington considers, therefore, that the best course will be for the Prime Minister to avoid replying to President Nyerere's letter in any detail and to send a polite but non-committal reply in the terms of the attached draft telegram.

Yours ever,

Stephen

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

Bryan G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

File No.

OUTWARD

Security Classification
CONFIDENTIAL
Precedence
IMMEDIATE
DESKBYZ

Department

Drafted by SIR A DUFF
(Block Capitals)

TELEGRAM

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PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

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TO IMMEDIATE DAR ES SALAAM Tel. No.of
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Distribution: -

[TEXT]

YOUR TELNO 576: RHODESIA

1. Please have the following message from the Prime Minister delivered to President Nyerere.

Dear Mr President

Thank you for your letter of 10 July about Rhodesia. I am grateful to you for setting out your views so clearly.

Copies to: -

I look forward to discussing all these questions with you at Lusaka. Meanwhile, I need to reflect on what you and others have told me, on the consultations which David Harlech had with several governments in Africa, and on the talk I have just had with Bishop Muzorewa. The way forward is not easy, as I am acutely aware. But in considering it I shall be fortified by the belief that we share a common objective - that is to reach a just and peaceful settlement of this

/longstanding

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longstanding problem which will rest on the foundations of an end to the fighting, and the constitutional exercise of power by the majority.

I do hope we can set aside some time for a talk in Lusaka so that we can go into the issues in greater depth. I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

CARRINGTON

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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