

o/s

Subject was filed on:-

Rhodesia Situation Pt 16

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
T 58/80  
SERIAL No. ....

GR 280  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM SALISBURY 141643Z MAR 80  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1076 OF 14 MARCH  
RHODESIA: PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE  
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PASS TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE  
FOLLOWING MESSAGE, DELIVERED TO ME TODAY, FROM MR MUGABE:  
BEGINS

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,  
I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS CONVEYED  
TO ME BY THE GOVERNOR, LORD SOAMES. I AGREE WITH YOU THAT THE  
ROAD FROM LUSAKA VIA LANCASTER HOUSE TO SALISBURY HAS BEEN  
AN ARDUOUS ONE. LIKE YOU, I FEEL EXTREMELY DELIGHTED THAT DEMOCRATIC  
ELECTIONS WERE FINALLY HELD AND THAT THE RESULT WAS IN OUR FAVOUR.

SINCE THE ELECTIONS, LORD SOAMES AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY  
HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER TO CONSTITUTE OUR GOVERNMENT AND GET THE  
MINISTERS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THEIR FUNCTION. GENERALLY,  
THE SECURITY SITUATION HAS IMPROVED AND PEACE AND CALM HAVE RETURNED  
TO THE COUNTRY.

I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH LORD SOAMES THE NEED WE FEEL FOR ASSISTANCE  
IN REORGANISING AND RESTRUCTURING THE NATIONAL ARMY, POLICE FORCE,  
CIVIL SERVICE AND THE RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE, AS WELL AS  
PROVIDING SOME OF OUR PEOPLE WITH INSTRUCTION IN THESE FIELDS. I  
AM GLAD THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO RENDER US THE ASSISTANCE  
WE HAVE REQUESTED AND THAT, OVERALLY, THERE IS PROMISE OF FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE FOR OUR LAND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME AND SCHEMES FOR THE  
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND CLINICS DESTROYED OR  
CLOSED DURING THE WAR.

WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO OUR COUNTRY BECOMING INDEPENDENT ON 18TH APRIL  
AND JOINING THE COMMONWEALTH. MAY I THANK YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT  
FOR ALL THE STEPS YOU TOOK TO EFFECT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WHICH  
HAS FINALLY LED TO OUR INDEPENDENCE.

KINDEST REGARDS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

R.G. MUGABE.  
PRIME MINISTER.

ENDS

SOAMES

FILES

RHOD D  
OADS  
N AM D  
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PLANNING STAFF  
CCD  
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LEGAL ADVS.  
(MR FREELAND)  
(MR FIFOOT)

ECON D  
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PS/MR LUCE  
PS/MR RIDLEY  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR MARTEN  
PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND  
SIR A ACLAND  
LORD N G LENNOX  
SIR L ALLINSON  
MR DAY  
MR FERGUSSON

ADDITIONAL DISTN.  
RHODESIA POLICY