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CC(79) 17  
SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
LANCASTER HOUSE  
LONDON  
SEPTEMBER 1979

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Summary of the proceedings of the Seventh  
Plenary Session of the Conference, Tuesday  
18 September

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Lancaster House  
18 September 1979

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PRESENT:  
UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Mr R Luce

Sir A Duff

Mr D M Day

Mr R A C Byatt

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr P J Barlow

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mr A M Layden

Mr R M J Lyne

Mr M J Richardson

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Bishop A T Muzorewa  
Dr S C Mundawarara  
Mr E L Bulle  
Mr F Zindoga  
Mr D C Mukome  
Mr G B Nyandoro  
Rev N Sithole  
Mr L Nyemba  
Chief K Ndiweni  
Mr Z M Bafanah  
Mr D C Smith  
Mr R Cronje  
Mr C Andersen  
Dr J Kamusikiri  
Mr L G Smith  
Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins  
Mr D Zamchiya  
Mr G Mutambanengwe

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo  
Mr J W Msika  
Mr A M Chambati  
Mr L Baron  
Mr S K Sibanda  
Mr E Mlambo  
Mr E Ndlovu  
Miss T Siziba  
Mr W Musururwa

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

Mr R G Mugabe  
Mr E Z Tekere  
Mr J M Tongogara  
Mr E R Kadungure  
Mr J Tungamirai  
Mr E Zvobgo  
Mr S Mubako  
Mr W Kamba

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The session opened at 1503.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the session had been called at the request of the Patriotic Front, who wished to table their paper on the pre-independence arrangements. He asked them to introduce the paper.

MR MUGABE read through the text of his delegation's paper (Conference Paper CC(79)16). At the end of his presentation he asked delegates to note a typographical error on the last line of page 3: "paragraph 7(5) below" should be substituted for "paragraph 7(4) below". Mr Mugabe explained that this document, together with their earlier paper (CC(79)11), gave a complete picture of his delegation's thinking and provided a basis for genuine independence for Zimbabwe.

In submitting this document, his delegation had made several concessions on points which had previously been strongly held. It was a compromise which took into account the realities of their own situation, and recognised the role of Britain and others in the independence process. He stressed that the interim arrangements and the independence constitution should be seen as part of a single process.

The paper attempted to provide for an administration during the transitional period, to be formed by the parties currently engaged in conflict. Britain should be the superintending authority, but should play no greater role than those engaged in the conflict. There were fundamental issues at stake. For instance, in discussing the place of the

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defence forces in an independence constitution, the Conference had to take current realities into account. A mere theoretical exercise on the future composition of the defence forces, which did not reflect the current situation, would be fruitless. The same applied to the police force. It was necessary to start as soon as possible to determine what force should constitute his country's army and police in the interim period. Those forces which had fought for liberation naturally wished to be established as the army of the country. The other side, Mr Mugabe said, would also have their point of view. The police force must not be an instrument in the hands of those who in the past had resisted the process of liberation. He proposed that there should be a completely new police force comprising Patriotic Front forces and elements from the other side.

Mr Mugabe reiterated his delegation's view that meaningful discussions on an independence constitution could not take place without taking into account the fundamental issues in the period of transition to independence. His delegation accepted the Chairman's ruling that the independence constitution should be discussed first. But any agreement on it would be contingent on satisfactory arrangements for the transitional period. He asked the Chairman to study his delegation's paper carefully, and expressed the hope that the Conference would react to it in due course.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Conference would take note of

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what Mr Mugabe had said. The agreement was to discuss an independence constitution first, after which they could move on to consider the proposals in the paper.

BISHOP MUZOREWA said that he wanted his delegation's very strong reservations on the paper to be noted.

THE CHAIRMAN recalled that the Conference had agreed that bilateral discussions should be held. Timings for these now had to be discussed, together with the timing for the next plenary meeting.

The session ended at 1530.