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File VB

*Top Copy on Zambia,
Visit of
Kaunda,
Nov 79.*



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 November 1979

Dear George,

President Kaunda's Call

As you know, the Prime Minister had a tête-à-tête discussion with President Kaunda at No. 10 this afternoon. No-one else was present at the meeting. You attended the Prime Minister's debriefing but you may nonetheless like to have this letter for the record.

The Prime Minister and President Kaunda exchanged papers at the beginning of their talk. You already have the top copy of the document left by President Kaunda. I enclose, for convenience, a copy of the paper given to him by the Prime Minister together with a copy of the points which the Prime Minister was briefed to raise orally.

The Prime Minister pointed out to President Kaunda that the two papers had some points in common but there were other points on which they were some way apart. President Kaunda made it clear to the Prime Minister that his document reflected the views of Mr. Nkomo. He did not make any serious attempt to defend the paper. The Prime Minister, on the other hand, was left with the strong impression that President Kaunda was pleased by the content of the paper she had given him.

President Kaunda spent most of the talk, which lasted about 45 minutes, discussing the personalities involved in the Lancaster House Conference. He took the line that Bishop Muzorewa was not a strong man and that he would be unable to hold the situation in Zimbabwe together after an election. Mr. Nkomo, on the other hand, was a leader. A number of Mr. Mugabe's cadres had acquired considerable respect for Mr. Nkomo in the course of the Conference. So had General Tongogara. The General had been to Nkomo and told him that he hoped to see him appointed sole leader of the Patriotic Front. In President Kaunda's view it was likely that quite a number of Mr. Mugabe's followers would be prepared to accept Mr. Nkomo's leadership.

In handing over her paper, the Prime Minister stressed the second of the points which it had been suggested she should make orally. She did not raise the other two points. She tried to bring it home to President Kaunda that the week ahead was a critical, and indeed an historic, one. The negotiations could not

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continue much longer. Some of Bishop Muzorewa's delegation had already begun to drift away. Decisions had to be taken soon.

President Kaunda left the impression with the Prime Minister that he thought Mr. Nkomo genuinely wanted a settlement. The Prime Minister herself tried to leave the President with the impression that HMG did not look with disfavour on Mr. Nkomo.

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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