



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

The Prime Minister
Does not wish to proceed
with this idea. Reply sent.

5 September 1979

Dear Michael,

*THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT*

Rhodesia: President Kaunda

The Prime Minister will have seen the record of * conversation with President Kaunda in Lusaka on 27 August (Stephen Wall's letter of 29 August) and President Kaunda's subsequent message to her (copy enclosed).

President Nyerere for his part has responded well to the Prime Minister's message (Dar-es-Salaam telegrams 707 and 709, also enclosed). He glosses over the likelihood of difficulty over the extent or basis of white representation in the Parliament, but takes the line that if our proposals seem fair and reasonable to the three Commonwealth "front-line" Presidents, they will not allow the Patriotic Front to have a veto. He is also encouragingly robust about the British asserting their authority. It is important that we should not only retain his support, but continue our efforts to enlist the support of the others.

As a result of her talk with President Kaunda, * believes that he also is convinced that the Government is making a determined effort to achieve a negotiated settlement. He subsequently told the US Ambassador that we were taking the right approach in seeking to negotiate the Constitution first. It would seem from his message that he is concerned to avoid any impression that he is discussing some kind of separate deal (he burned his fingers badly in arranging the Smith-Nkomo meeting last year). We can therefore make use of the High Commissioners and Mark Chona for our contact with President Kaunda. Personal contact with him will still be very important and * believes that President Kaunda would welcome an invitation to meet the Prime Minister during the Conference. Whether or not he is able to come to London, it seems right to offer this, particularly as the Prime Minister is seeing President Nyerere.

In that event, the Prime Minister may wish to consider sending a similar message to President Seretse Khama. His ability to influence the Patriotic Front is much less, however, and he is at present engaged in an election campaign. He is likely to respond by sending his Foreign Minister, Mr Mogwe, to London. This would be useful. Mr Mogwe has played a helpful role over Rhodesia in the past.

I attach a draft telegram with a message to President Kaunda which, if the Prime Minister agrees, HM Ambassador at Havana might

M O'DB Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

/be instructed

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* ~ * Names deleted and
retained under section 3(4)
C. Wayland
5 Nov. 2009



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/ be instructed to pass to him; and a draft message to President Seretse Khama.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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*M¹
Rhodesia*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 September, 1979.

Rhodesia: President Kaunda

You wrote to me on 5 September enclosing two draft telegrams containing invitations to Presidents Kaunda and Seretse Khama to visit London in 10 days time or thereabouts.

The Prime Minister is at present in Scotland, but the suggestion that the two Presidents should come to London has been put to her. She is not enthusiastic about the proposal. Her programme for the next fortnight is already very crowded, and she is not convinced that it is yet sufficiently clear just what benefit the visits would bring.

As you know, it has been decided, in the light of the Prime Minister's reaction, not to proceed with the invitations.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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