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Extract from Record of Meeting between
PM and U.N. Secretary-General, New York,

18. 12. 79

Rhodesia

Dr. Waldheim offered warm congratulations on the success of the Lancaster House conference on Rhodesia. The United Nations had been delighted by the news, and he had cabled a message of congratulation to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. Lord Carrington said that there was still an outstanding difficulty. Bishop Muzorewa had now asked for clarification of news media reports of British concessions to the Patriotic Front. He believed this would prove to be last minute nerves. Dr. Waldheim said that the United Nations had received the news of a ceasefire agreement with great enthusiasm. Rhodesia had been a difficult subject for the General Assembly, but the announcement at the President of the General Assembly's lunch of the initialling had been greeted by applause from even the most radical of representatives. The Prime Minister commented that this wholehearted support from all sides had been characteristic since the negotiating process had been set in hand at Lusaka. Everybody wanted success. The right moment had come. This did not mean the problems were over. Battles were never finally won.

Dr. Waldheim said that he hoped the achievement over Rhodesia would have an impact on the Namibian negotiations. The Prime Minister foresaw an impact on the whole of South Africa, and especially on the Front Line States. Dr. Waldheim

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said that the Front Line states seemed to have been helpful. The Prime Minister said that they no longer wished to play host to the problems of Rhodesia. The success of the Conference was a blow for democracy in the heart of Africa, where democracy was not always in the ascendant. Dr. Waldheim recalled a discussion with President Nyerere in Monrovia in the summer, where the President had assured him that he would press the Patriotic Front if the British were ready to set in hand the negotiating process. The Prime Minister commented that all the Commonwealth leaders had been very helpful at Lusaka. They had even been prepared to respond to her opening statement by redrafting their own prepared speeches to pick up her theme. Work had then gone into a small group, once again proving that plenaries were always too big for worthwhile negotiations. Since then, a great deal of time had been spent on the negotiations. Ultimately, the strategy had proved effective. It was a tribute to the genius of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and his staff. She recalled the decision to insist on negotiating an agreement on a constitution before allowing discussion of transitional arrangements. Lord Carrington commented that the agreement was still fragile, as that day's pronouncement from Bishop Muzorewa had demonstrated. All parties had been very nervous in the final days of discussion. The Prime Minister added that all the parties had concerns about their own security.

Dr. Waldheim asked how the issue of bases had been solved at the final stage. Lord Carrington said that the Patriotic Front were all gathered on the Mozambique and Zambian borders. He had said that they should be assembled in those areas. The Patriotic Front claimed also to have significant concentrations of men in the centre of Rhodesia. The British Government were aware of only a few there, but had finally offered one additional base, in that area, with an understanding that the Governor would re-assess the situation if it proved that there were greater numbers of Patriotic Front forces in the central area. The Patriotic Front had declared 35,000 men, much more than the

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British Government's own information suggested. The United Kingdom estimated the Patriotic Front forces as in the region of 16,000, compared with Bishop Muzorewa's Government forces of about 45,000. Dr. Waldheim said, that for presentational reasons the Patriotic Front may have wanted to claim a figure in that region.

Dr. Waldheim characterised progress on Rhodesia as one positive development in a period of troubles.

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