



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

You enquired  
about this.

8 June 1979

Dear Bryan,

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MS

Rhodesia: Chinese Assistance to ZANU

In your letter of ~~6~~ June about Lord Harlech's mission to Southern Africa, you asked for advice on whether Mr Mugabe was still receiving aid from the Chinese. The recent evidence suggests that China is continuing to provide ZANU with shipments of light arms and ammunition, though in limited quantities. ZANU are known to be dissatisfied with the Chinese philosophy that the war should be fought by guerrillas relying on light arms, with the quality and quantity of Chinese arms supplied and their failure to supply heavy equipment, especially surface to air missiles. Nevertheless ZANU have so far resisted pressure from the USSR and GDR to break their links with China. They also get arms from certain African countries, in particular Mozambique and Ethiopia. Direct Soviet supplies continue to be given only to Nkomo's ZAPU, though ZANU may hope to get more access to Soviet equipment as a result of the attempts which have recently been made (though so far with limited success) to impose greater unity on the two wings of the Patriotic Front.

Yours ever,  
Stephen

(J S Wall)

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