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CC(79)88

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THIRTY-EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

LANCASTER HOUSE

LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the Thirty-Eighth
Plenary Session of the Conference, Monday
26th November 1979.

Lancaster House

26 November 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Sir I Gilmour Bt (in the Chair)

Mr R Luce

Mr D M Day

Gen M Farndale

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr C D Powell

Mr R Jackling

Col C Dunphie

Mr P J Barlow

Mr B Watkins

Mr A M Layden

Mr S J Gomersall

Mrs A J Phillips

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The session commenced at 17.10.

THE CHAIRMAN explained that the Patriotic Front delegation would not be coming to the session. They had attended a bilateral meeting at the Foreign Office that morning and there had been some argument over procedure. A further bilateral meeting would probably be held with them the following day at which the Chairman hoped that progress would be made.

DR MUNDAWARARA delivered a statement which was subsequently circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)89.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked Dr Mundawarara for his statement. His delegation very much welcomed Bishop Muzorewa's delegation's acceptance of the British proposals.

DR MUNDAWARARA asked whether the Chairman could respond to his question regarding the time-scale made in his statement (CC(79)89). THE CHAIRMAN said that considered comments would be given in full plenary session as soon as possible.

MR D C SMITH emphasized the substantial concessions made by his delegation during the Conference: he hoped that the UK delegation would recognize these concessions, which had been made to try to achieve a satisfactory solution in the interests of the welfare of their continent and people. They did not agree with the British proposals simply for the sake of doing so.

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THE CHAIRMAN said that his delegation appreciated these concessions. Agreement would be possible only if concessions were made by all sides.

In reply to a question from DR MUNDAWARARA, THE CHAIRMAN said that the Patriotic Front delegation had been aware that a plenary session had been called; he could not, however, force them to attend. They had not wanted a plenary session to take place at this time, but the British delegation had said that, as a plenary session had been arranged, one would take place. The British delegation responded whenever delegations asked for a plenary session to be held, but could not ensure attendance.

The session ended at 17.30.

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