

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM SALISBURY 091530Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 581 OF 9 FEBRUARY

ELECTION SUPERVISION.

*Rhodesia (2)*  
*Prime Minister*  
*had Tarrington may have*  
*mentioned this problem*  
*MA 11/2*

WE HAVE A CRISIS, WHICH WILL NEED DRASTIC MEASURES TO RESOLVE, OVER THE SUPERVISION OF THE POLLING STATIONS.

2. IT WAS INITIALLY OUR THOUGHT THAT ABUSES WITHIN THE POLLING STATION (E.G. BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER) WOULD BE PREVENTED BY THE PRESENCE WITHIN THE POLLING STATION OF AGENTS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES (SEE IN THIS CONNECTION PARAGRAPH 38 OF ANNEX D OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENT). IN ORDER TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING IN THE STATIONS, MY ORDINANCE LAST MONTH, WHICH DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, LAID DOWN THAT THE PRESIDING OFFICER COULD RESTRICT THE NUMBERS OF PARTY AGENTS IN A POLLING STATION AT ANY ONE TIME TO FOUR, PROVIDED THERE WERE NOT LESS THAN THREE.

3. IT IS NOW REPRESENTED TO ME THAT THE PRESENCE OF A Z A N U (P F) AGENT WITHIN A POLLING STATION IS LIKELY TO HAVE A MARKEDLY INTIMIDATING EFFECT ON AN UNSOPHISTICATED VOTER. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT I SHALL NOW HAVE TO BAN PARTY AGENTS FROM POLLING STATIONS ALTOGETHER, AT LEAST IN ALL EXCEPT THE URBAN AREAS.

4. WHEN I DO THAT, HOWEVER, I IMMEDIATELY LAY OUR WHOLE SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION OPEN TO THE SERIOUS CRITICISM, BY THE OBSERVER AND OTHERS, THAT WE ARE NOT EXERCISING ADEQUATE CONTROL: AND THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT A PRESIDING OFFICER, WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF HIS CLERKS, STUFFING A BALLOT BOX WITH FALSELY MARKED PAPERS. I FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH CRITICISM WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS. THE ONLY SOLUTION I CAN SEE WOULD BE TO HAVE A BRITISH AGENT AT EACH OF THE RURAL AND EACH OF THE MOBILE POLLING STATIONS - SAY 500 ALTOGETHER.

15. THIS TASK

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

5. THIS TASK WOULD THEREFORE REQUIRE THE DEPLOYMENT TO RHODESIA OF ABOUT 500 YOUNG MEN, WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO LIVE FAIRLY ROUGH FOR A WEEK (CAMP BEDS IN E.G. SCHOOLS OR POLICE STATIONS, AND COMPO RATIONS). ON A ROUGH INITIAL CALCULATION THEY WOULD HAVE TO ARRIVE IN SALISBURY ON MONDAY MORNING, 25 FEBRUARY, AND COULD PROBABLY BE FLOWN OUT AGAIN A WEEK LATER. THEY WOULD HAVE NO EXECUTIVE TASK. THEIR ROLE WOULD BE PARTLY DETERRENT, PARTLY PRESENTATIONAL. THEY WOULD BE GIVEN FAIRLY SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD BRIEFING IN SALISBURY ON ARRIVAL. GIVEN THE SHORT NOTICE, AND THE NATURE OF THE TASK, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONLY MILITARY <sup>OR</sup> ~~OF~~ POLICE COULD MEET THE REQUIREMENT.

6. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH GENERAL ACLAND, BUT HE DOESN'T FEEL HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SPARE ANY MEN FROM THE MONITORING FORCE AT THAT TIME. I HAVE THEREFORE TO ASK THAT URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO FULFILLING THIS REQUEST FROM MILITARY OR POLICE RESOURCES IN THE U K OR ELSEWHERE. THE MEN CONCERNED WOULD HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH IF NECESSARY TO ASSERT THEMSELVES, ON THEIR OWN IN AN UNFAMILIAR SITUATION: I.E. THEY SHOULD BE N C OS

7. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THIS PROPOSAL COULD BE VERY URGENTLY EXAMINED. I MUCH REGRET HAVING TO MAKE IT, BUT THE EXTENT OF INTIMIDATION AND, MORE IMPORTANT, THE PSYCHOSIS THAT IS DEVELOPING ABOUT IT, PREVENT US USING THE SELF-POLICING ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLLING STATIONS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED: AND THE SUSPICION WITH WHICH OUR WHOLE OPERATION IS REGARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND

/ OTHERS

2

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

OTHERS MEANS THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW ANY OBVIOUS GAP IN OUR DEFENCES, WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM ADDED AMMUNITION.

SOAMES

FILES

RHOD D

OADS

NAD

PUSD

PLANNING STAFF

CCD

FRD

ECD (E)

UND

LEGAL ADVISERS

(MR FREELAND)

ECON D

DEF D

IPD

OID

NEWS D

PS

PS/SIR I GILMOUR

PS/MR LUCE

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR MARTEN

PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND

SIR A ACLAND

LORD N G LENNOX

MR DAY

MR FERGUSSON

MR ASPIN

MR MILLS

CPO

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
RHODESIA POLICY

*Prime Minister*  
*HAP*

UNCLASSIFIED  
FM SALISBURY 091424Z FEB 80  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 575 OF 9 FEBRUARY  
INFO PRIORITY LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE MAPUTO LAGOS CAPE TOWN  
MONROVIA ADDAS ABABA WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK  
MY IPT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BROADCAST  
BEGINS

TO ALL Z A N L A FORCES

I REX NHONGO, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENCE OF Z A N U P F AM GIVING YOU THESE ORDERS WHICH MUST BE OBEYED - WHICH COME FROM OUR PRESIDENT OF Z A N U P F, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF Z A N L A, COMRADE PRESIDENT ROBERT G MUGABE. THE ORDERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. ALL Z A N L A FORCES IN ASSEMBLY PLACES ARE STRICTLY ORDERED NOT TO LEAVE THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY ARE. THEY ARE ORDERED TO FOLLOW THE RULES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN: AND EVERY DAY THEY ARE TO AGREE TO ROLL CALLS.
2. ALL Z A N L A MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET GONE TO ASSEMBLY PLACES ARE ORDERED TO GO TO TOSE AREAS IMMEDIATELY. TO ASSIST YOU IN THESE MATTERS WE ARE SENDING YOU SOME OF YOUR COMMANDERS TO DIFFERENT PLACES FOR THEM TO GIVE YOU ADVICE WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED.
3. OUR SIDE MUST NOT BREAK THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS THERE IN REGARD OF PEACE WHICH WE ARE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW IN CONNECTION WITH THE CEASEFIRE. WE ARE COMPELLED ALSO NOT TO PREVENT OR INTERFERE WITH MEETINGS OF OTHER PARTIES NOT BEING OURS WHEN THEY CALL THEIR MEETINGS. WE HAVE SUBMITTED OURSELVES TO RESPECT THE OTHER PARTIES AND THEY IN TURN RECIPROCATE THE RESPECT TOWARDS US.
4. OUR AGREEMENT IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE PEACEFUL ELECTIONS, AND THAT OUR PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE NICELY AND WITHOUT FIGHTING. OUR ORGANISATION HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION WHICH WILL BE SHOWN BY WISHES OF THE PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR VOTE. THESE ORDERS MUST BE OBEYED. THAT IS ALL.

SOAMES

F I L E S

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| RHOD D         | OID              |
| OADS           | NEWS D           |
| NAD            | PS               |
|                | PS/SIR I GILMOUR |
| PUSD           | PS/MR LUCE       |
| PLANNING STAFF | PS/MR RIDLEY     |
|                | PS/MR HURD       |
|                | PS/MR MARTEN     |
| CCD            | PS/PUS           |
| FRD            | SIR D MAITLAND   |
| ECD (E)        | SIR A ACLAND     |
| UND            |                  |
| LEGAL ADVISERS | LORD N G LENNOX  |
| (MR FREELAND)  | MR BYATT         |
|                | MR DAY           |
| ECON D         | MR FERGUSSON     |
|                | MR ASPIN         |
| DEF D          | MR MILLS         |
| IPD            | CPO              |

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
RHODESIA POLICY