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FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON
SEPTEMBER 1979

Summary of the proceedings of the Fifth Plenary
Session of the Conference, Monday 17 September

Lancaster House
17 September 1979

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Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Bishop A T Muzorewa
Dr S C Mundawarara
Mr E L Bulle
Mr F Zindoga
Mr D C Mukome
Mr G B Nyandoro
Rev N Sithole
Mr L Nyemba
Chief K Ndiweni
Mr Z M Bafanah
Mr I D Smith
Mr D C Smith
Mr R Cronje
Mr C Andersen
Dr J Kamusikiri
Mr G Pincus
Mr L G Smith
Mr D Zamchiya

PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Sir M Havers

Lord Harlech

Mr R Luce

Sir M Palliser

Sir A Duff

Mr D M Day

Mr R A C Byatt

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr P J Barlow

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mr R M J Lyne

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo	Mr R G Mugabe
Mr J W Msika	Mr E Z Tekere
Mr T G Silundika	Mr J M Tongogara
Mr A M Chambati	Mr E R Kadungure
Mr L Baron	Mr H Ushewokunze
Mr S K Sibanda	Mr J Tungamirai
Mr E Mlambo	Mr E Zvobgo
Mr C Ndlovu	Mr S Mubako
Miss T Siziba	Mr W Kamba

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session began at 1040.

The CHAIRMAN began by expressing the hope that the second week of the Conference would bring further progress. Before tabling proposals on how the Conference might proceed, he answered briefly some of the questions posed at the previous session by Bishop Muzorewa's delegation and also commented on the proposals introduced at the same session by Mr Mugabe. In replying to the question raised by Dr Mundawarara as to why some of the provisions in the constitution tabled by his delegation were unacceptable, he said that some features of the present constitutional arrangements differed markedly from those of other countries granted independence by Britain. This was particularly true as regards the blocking power given to the minority over a wide range of legislation and in the character of the Public Service and other Commissions. He said that the British proposals stood by themselves and related only to the main constitutional provisions and not to all the subsidiary and consequential points. On the question as to why, within the British proposals, white voters did not appear on both the White Voters roll and the Common Voters roll, the British Government thought that no individual should be given two votes. The British Government had also thought it better not to specify at this stage certain numbers and periods relating to the House of Assembly, Senate and amendments to the constitution. They preferred to put

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