

[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

23

2

Subject file
Rhodesia Situation - Pcs.

PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR A DUFF
MR WILLSON
MR BYATT
LORD N G LENNOX

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T83a/79

MR R L WADE-GERY)
MR P M MAXEY)
COL MOIR) CABINET
MR P J FOWLER) OFFICE
DIO)
SIR J HUNT)

.....
HD/RHODESIA DEPT (3)

~~FOR ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENTS FUND~~

HD/C AF D
HD/S AF D

~~ADD MR LYNCH ODI?~~
~~MR SLATER TREASURY~~

HD/UND
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/WAD
MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER RM K200A
MR FIFOOT LEGAL ADVISER RM K164

Prime Minister
Advice is
in preparation. 24/8

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

IMMEDIATE

OO FCO DESK BY 241600Z

It is a very reasonable
when. I hope we
can agree to have
request
no

CR378
CONFIDENTIAL

T83a/79T

ADVANCE COPY

DECRBY 241600Z

FM KIRINDA SALISBURY 241337Z AUG 79
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 577 OF 24 AUGUST

IMMEDIATE

RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

Overlakes.
B-a. 6/8

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER FROM MUZOREMA TO THE PRIME MINISTER DATED 22 AUGUST, DELIVERED THIS AFTERNOON:
BEGINS

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS STILL DETERMINED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH MY GOVERNMENT IN A JOINT ATTEMPT TO SOLVE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM. THE VISIT TO SALISBURY BY MR FIFOOT TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS ISSUES ON THE CONSTITUTION WITH MY ADVISERS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN VERY HELPFUL AND I APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH.

ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, I ACCEPT YOUR FORMAL INVITATION TO ATTEND A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AT LANCASTER HOUSE, LONDON, ON THE 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1979. THIS ACCEPTANCE IS ON THE UNDERSTANDING

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1979. THIS ACCEPTANCE IS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE NO PRECONDITIONS TO THE CONFERENCE.

ON MY RETURN FROM MY VISIT TO LONDON I REPORTED TO MY COLLEAGUE ON THE BASIS OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU AND WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT I HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT AFTER THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ZIMBABWE RHODESIA TO DISCUSS YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WITH MY GOVERNMENT AND ONLY AFTER SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD ANY PROPOSALS ON YOUR PART BE PUBLISHED. MY DEPUTY, AFTER HIS SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO LONDON, REPORTED IN THE SAME TERMS TO CABINET. MY MINISTERS WERE THEREFORE VERY PERTURBED WHEN I INFORMED THEM OF YOUR INVITATION AND THE OUTLINE OF YOUR PROPOSALS WHICH WERE BEING PUBLISHED AS THEY FELT THAT THIS PREMATURE PUBLICATION WAS CONTRARY TO THE VERY EXPLICIT UNDERTAKINGS THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ME AND TO MY DEPUTY. THEY THOUGHT THAT THIS DID NOT BODE WELL FOR THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

IN YOUR INVITATION THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POINTS TO WHICH I FEEL I MUST REPLY.

FIRST, YOU URGE US TO OBSERVE A CEASEFIRE. IT IS OUR EARNEST DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A CEASEFIRE BUT IT IS THE PRIMARY DUTY OF MY GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY AND ITS CITIZENS FROM INCURSIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. IN NO WAY, THEREFORE, CAN I HOLD OUT ANY HOPE FOR A CEASEFIRE UNLESS YOU AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES CAN PERSUADE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO STOP THEIR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST MY COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLES AND CAN GIVE SOME GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL DO SO.

SECOND, YOU STATE THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS REPRESENT THE KIND OF CONSTITUTION WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT BELIEVES "SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE". THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE RHODESIA WAS NEGOTIATED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY FOR THIS COUNTRY. THIS WAS THE COURSE THAT A FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE, LORD HOME, TOLD US TO FOLLOW. THE RECENT ELECTIONS, WHICH LORD BOYD AND HIS PARTY CONFIRMED WERE FREE AND FAIR, SHOWED CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

THIRD, YOU APPEAL TO US TO APPROACH THE NEGOTIATIONS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING SPIRIT AND TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL RHODESIANS, WHATEVER THEIR RACE OR POLITICAL BELIEFS, WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE IN SECURITY AND AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS. IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS SIGNED IN SALISBURY

THE 3RD MARCH, 1976, DID LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND THAT OUR PRESENT CONSTITUTION WILL ENABLE SUCH A SOCIETY TO BE ESTABLISHED. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO OUR CONSTITUTION ARE NECESSARY. WE HAVE NOW COMPLIED FULLY WITH THE SIX PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND THEREFORE I CALL UPON YOU TO LIFT SANCTIONS FORTHWITH, WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE TO BEGIN.

AT FIRST I WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO MEET THE COSTS OF SENDING 12 DELEGATES TO LONDON AND ACCOMMODATING THEM THERE DURING THE CONFERENCE. IN THE CASE OF MY DELEGATION, I AND MY MINISTERS WHILST IN LONDON WILL STILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNING OF ZIMBABWE RHODESIA. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR US TO REMAIN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH AFFAIRS IN ZIMBABWE RHODESIA AND, FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE OFFICIALS SUCH AS ADVISERS, SECRETARIES, CYPHER CLERKS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL, ACCOMPANYING MY DELEGATION. AFTER I MENTIONED THIS TO MR DAY, HE APPARENTLY CONTACTED YOU AND YOU HAVE NOW AGREED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SENDING 20 DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE AND ACCOMMODATING THEM IN LONDON. IN MY VIEW, ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE YOUR GESTURE, THIS IS STILL NOT ADEQUATE. AS MY DELEGATION MUST REPRESENT ALL THE PARTIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, IT WILL CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 40 PERSONS. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL, THEREFORE, IF YOU WOULD AGREE TO MEET THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF THE FULL PARTY. IT IS, AFTER ALL, AT THE REQUEST OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT WE ARE TRAVELLING TO LONDON, IN THIS CONNEXION I AM INFORMED THAT YOU INTEND TO LIMIT ADMISSION INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM TO 12 DELEGATES. AS I INTEND HAVING 12 MINISTERIAL OR POLITICAL DELEGATES, I FEEL THAT MY GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE UNLESS 16 PEOPLE ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE CONFERENCE ROOM. THIS WILL ENABLE ME TO HAVE MY LEGAL AND OTHER ADVISERS WITH ME AT THE MEETINGS, WHICH I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE IS ESSENTIAL. ALSO, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, 4 CARS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT FOR MY DELEGATION. COULD NOT THE NUMBER BE INCREASED SLIGHTLY?

ENDS

IMMEDIATE

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