

SUBJECT

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TRANSCRIPT OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 1979

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T150/79T

Prime Minister: Is that Kenneth? This is Margaret.

President Kaunda: Good afternoon, Margaret.

PM: Oh, Kenneth, I'm so glad to have the chance to talk to you, because I think some very bad misunderstandings have arisen. Would you just like to say one or two things to me first?

President: Really, Margaret, things here, on my return from there, after I had gone through Rome and Baghdad, I found a very volatile situation here: the ways in which our bridges have been destroyed; continuous attacks on our people, resulting in murders and I just don't understand it at all. I have just come from London where after you received me so well didn't want to find this position here at all. I called a press conference the day before yesterday at which I spoke very strongly. I was surprised of course by the silence of Western countries except for America which condemned the attacks on us, and I said at this press conference that Britain had the responsibility for this British colony - it's always been as far as I'm concerned - and then from there your British High Commissioner issued a very unfortunate statement indeed and this annoyed people here very much indeed.

PM: Well, I heard that and I thought I would like to have one or two words with you. First, can I just say that I understand now that our British High Commission is all right and that the police and the army kept off the demonstration, and we're very grateful that they did and they acted to protect our people in the High Commission. Now secondly, Kenneth, what I'm very worried about is the misunderstanding that seems to have arisen about the powers we have at the moment. We don't have powers over Salisbury or General Walls until we can get a ceasefire

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actually signed and the Governor over there. Only then do we have the powers. Now Peter Carrington has been urging both sides to show complete restraint in particular during the ceasefire talks, and I am just as concerned as you are because I think that when you were here we were on the point of achieving success. Now let me tell you what is going to happen now. We're going to have a full plenary session at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Peter Carrington having talked with both sides will be laying detailed proposals for a ceasefire for them to consider. The moment he lays those proposals he will ask both sides to come to an immediate agreement to prevent any further damage to Zambia. We shall ask for undertakings to come into effect simultaneously that no cross-border operations will be carried out by Rhodesia into Zambia and that no further movement of Patriotic Front personnel will take place from Zambia into Rhodesia. And we think it is vitally important that we secure those undertakings and will do all we can to persuade the parties to give them. Can I stress one thing. We made those undertakings, we made the ceasefire agreement. It is vital to get it urgently because until we get that ceasefire agreement we are in a difficulty with no power over Rhodesia until we get a Governor in position. And that is what Peter was trying to say. We also are concerned, we have talked and tried to urge constraint and we will have another go this afternoon in the terms which I have indicated. But the vital thing, Kenneth, is to get that ceasefire agreement because the longer it takes now the more we are concerned that troubles of this kind - and we know how difficult they are and particularly for you - and that is why I have been worried that the talks were going on for such a long time. We'll do that at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Would that help?

President: Well I want you to know that really I am only speaking to you out of very personal respect and feelings for you.

/PM:

PM: Well this is why I wanted to get on to you, Kenneth, because I thought if you and I talked about it it might help. I feel that only you can help to get us the ceasefire arrangements now and we do want them quickly if we are to get a Governor in position quickly and then deal with these matters. But in the meantime we will try to get undertakings from both sides, one, not to have any cross-border operations into Zambia and the Patriotic Front to agree that no further movement of their personnel will take place from Zambia into Rhodesia. And if we can get that, and the ceasefire agreement, then I believe we're on the verge of success.

President: Well, I wish you the best of luck, Margaret, but honestly my time now is being spent on mobilising the small Zambian nation to self-defence and I cannot kid you that I will be paying any more attention to what is taking place in London. I just have no time at all for that now.

PM: I just hope that your people in London will urge the Patriotic Front to come to agreement on the ceasefire - and urgently. Because I feel, Kenneth, that it is urgent for your people as well as for the whole future of Rhodesia. If we get a ceasefire agreement then we can act very quickly. Without it, it is difficult. You see, I can act within days of a ceasefire agreement, and we've got orders and governors and everything else ready to come over. But we do need it and we need it quickly, and you need it, too, because it will.....if we get the undertaking on the ceasefire then the things which have caused you such grievous trouble will, I believe, stop.

President: Look, Margaret. I don't think anybody has worked more for peace than I have done I've done all these things. I responded to you.... I came over.... and I really must now organise my people ^{for whatever happens.} /.... If we're going to be demolished because of ^{the scale of} /power from the South - very well, but Margaret I keep saying to you, I'm talking to you only out of personal respect.

/PM:

PM: I know that, I know that. But we very nearly got an agreement when you were here Kenneth and we just have to complete it now because if we do then the troubles that are causing you such grievous harm will, I believe, stop. We'll have a plenary at 4 o'clock; we'll ask both sides to come to an immediate agreement to prevent further damage to Zambia: one, to have no cross-border operations and the other to stop the movement of Patriotic Front personnel into Rhodesia and then go ahead and have the ceasefire quickly and I do beg of you to do anything you can to do that because I'm sure that's a quick way forward. Are you still there?

President: I'm listening, Margaret I have to think as quickly as possible. I'm not sure it would be right for me to make promises which I can't fulfil. Really, nothing has disturbed me more these past few days. I don't know whether I would be effective in this shape or form in any of the things we would be trying to do together.

PM: I think we can still get through, Kenneth, if General Walls stops the attacks in return for Mr. Nkomo stopping infiltration. Then we can go ahead with the ceasefire - and quickly. I know that you are having consultations in Dar es Salaam over the weekend and I hope everything will be done there to urge them to come to a ceasefire agreement quickly. Because we'll do our part here and we're constantly urging constraint because we're not going to put the whole of an agreement and a solution in jeopardy. We're just doing everything we can to stop the attacks and to have constraint on both sides. So we'll do what we can, Kenneth, and I'm sure you'll do what you can because I think we are close to success and I think the worst is coming - the worst has come - just before success. Kenneth, you know I do personally wish you every success and I do thank you for what you did in coming over here and I just think we've got to hold on to the objectives now to get the settlement, because that will be an end to your troubles and to Zimbabwe's.

/President:

President: Thank you for the messages, Margaret.

PM: If there are any further troubles, Kenneth, I will probably try to get on the telephone to you because I think you and I can perhaps try to deal with it more quickly than any other way. In the meantime, I know you'll look after all diplomatic people in Zambia.

President: Well I've made, not really an appeal, but an instruction to my countrymen of not acting anti-British at all. a lot of support from white subjects here we have to protect the High Commission nothing to do with ordinary British citizens here at all, nothing.

PM: Well, Kenneth. We'll do our best to stop both further attacks and infiltration and to get a ceasefire and I hope that if the other two come to Dar es Salaam they'll come back absolutely ready to take part in the ceasefire talks with a view to coming to a rapid conclusion.

President: All right, Margaret. Thank you very much indeed.

PM: Thank you. My personal very best wishes, Kenneth.

President: Thank you, Margaret. Thank you.

PM: Goodbye.

President: Goodbye now. God bless.