

SUBJECT



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 36/79T

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 July 1979

My dear President,

Thank you for your long and thoughtful letter on Rhodesia, which your High Commissioner gave me on 15 June. I value your frankness, and the trouble you took to make your position so clear. I have also been helped in understanding your views by Lord Harlech's account of his talk with you on 14 June. This was clearly a very useful meeting and I am grateful to you for discussing with him how we might move forward on this difficult problem.

I and my colleagues believe that the April election in Rhodesia, and the advent to power of Bishop Muzorewa's government, marked a significant change. We think that this step forward - as we regard it - does give us the opportunity to make a fresh attempt at finding and establishing a lasting settlement for Rhodesia. You for your part, if I understand you correctly, consider that this new government in Rhodesia is only one of the centres of power in the situation and you fear that we may attach too much importance to it.

Mr. President, I do not believe that this difference between our views need inhibit us from working together towards a common objective. In my view, that objective must be to bring Rhodesia to legal independence in circumstances which will command as wide international acceptance as possible. I believe that this can be done, and I look forward to discussing with you in Lusaka and with our other Commonwealth colleagues how it can be done.

/ As I have told

As I have told your High Commissioner, when she called to give me your letter, I do indeed attach great importance to maintaining close and friendly relations between our two countries; and I welcome the suggestion she put to me that you and I should meet together quietly, at an early stage in the Commonwealth Conference. Mr. Allinson will be in touch with you about arranging such a meeting.

I know how much it means to you and to your people to achieve a satisfactory and honourable settlement of the Rhodesia problem. It is my earnest wish that we should work together to bring about a peaceful solution which will gain wide international acceptance, thus benefiting not only Rhodesia but all the countries of the region.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. Kenneth Kaunda