

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

I attach the programme as
it now stands & a recent
telegram which we should discuss. *fh*

4 December 1979

Dear Michael,

RMJ 4/11

Call by the US Ambassador, 5 December: Rhodesia

When announcing his determination on sanctions in mid-November President Carter stated that the US Administration "would be prepared to lift sanctions when a British Governor assumes authority in Salisbury and the process leading to impartial elections has begun. Our policy will continue to be that no party should have a veto over fair settlement proposals."

HM Ambassador at Washington has reported that Mr Vance has now written to Senator Helms to say that the President will take action to lift sanctions "no later than one month after the Governor's arrival", or by 31 January, whichever is the sooner (Washington telegrams 4028 and 4029 attached).

The Prime Minister may wish to remind Mr Brewster that we have made and are continuing to make every effort to achieve a settlement involving the Patriotic Front. As he knows, Mr Mugabe is making great difficulty about accepting our cease-fire proposals. We hope these difficulties will be overcome, but it is in any event likely that a return to legality will be effected within the next few days.

It would obviously be highly unsatisfactory to have sanctions maintained for a month by the US Administration against Rhodesia under a British Governor. Lord Carrington has therefore instructed Sir N Henderson to make clear to Mr Vance's office that this would cause us serious concern. Lord Carrington recommends that the Prime Minister should point out to Mr Brewster that it would cause potentially serious political embarrassment between us, particularly in view of the timing of the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, if the US Administration were to continue to apply sanctions after the Governor's arrival in Salisbury.

yours etc
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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