date: 6 MAY, 1979

RHODESIA

Background

There is a story in today's Sunday Express that Bishop Muzorewa has sent a cable to the Prime Minister asking her to meet an envoy from Rhodesia to discuss the future of Anglo-Rhodesian relations. There is another story in the Sunday Telegraph that Mrs. Thatcher intends to send an envoy to Rhodesia. The line on both these stories is as follows:-

Message from Bishop Muzorewa

If asked, we can confirm that a message has been received from Bishop Muzorewa and that we are studying it. We should be drawn no further on its contents.

Envoy to Rhodesia

The Sunday Telegraph story is pure speculation. The Prime Minister's first priority has been to form her Government and it is too early to be considering such initiatives on a sensitive and complicated subject such as Rhodesia.