

PRIME MINISTER

Rhodesia

M. Jacques Wahl, Director General at the Elysée, telephoned me this morning to say that President Giscard wished you to know of some information which had reached the French Government from very reliable sources. This was to the effect that President Mobutu of Zaire would be inclined to accord formal recognition to Bishop Muzorewa's Government in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia if the UK were first to take the lead in recognising the Bishop's regime.

I thanked M. Wahl and said that I knew you would be most grateful to President Giscard for passing on this interesting information.

I have informed Lord Carrington.

BW  
SH

ms.

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11/6

8 June 1979