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Subject file - Rhodesia
- Situation - Pt 9

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T138/79T

DESKBY CAIRO 081500Z

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TO IMMEDIATE CAIRO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 461 OF 8 NOVEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE TUNIS RABAT DAKAR LILONGWE YAOUNDE KINSHASA

LIBREVILLE ABIDJAN MASERU KHARTOUM BANJUL

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON PARIS UKMIS NEW YORK ADDIS ABABA

LAGOS LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM MAPUTO PRETORIA.

RHODESIA.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT (RABAT : KING HASSAN) WHICH ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD ARRANGE TO DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN ANY DISCUSSION ARISING FROM THIS MESSAGE YOU SHOULD DRAW ON MY TELEGRAM NO 1584 TO WASHINGTON. YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ARE UNWILLING TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE TEST IN ELECTIONS HELD UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A BRITISH GOVERNOR, THEY CAN NOT BE PERMITTED UNILATERALLY TO DECIDE THAT RHODESIA SHOULD REMAIN IN A STATE OF ILLEGALITY, THAT THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA SHOULD BE FURTHER PUNISHED FOR THE ILLEGAL INDEPENDENCE OR THAT THEY SHOULD BE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING BROUGHT TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE UNDER OUR AUTHORITY.

2. MESSAGE BEGINS.

I KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE AT LANCASTER HOUSE. THE PURPOSE OF THAT CONFERENCE IS TO BRING RHODESIA TO INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE. WE ARE ALSO ENGAGED IN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO BRING AN END TO THE WAR AND IN CONSEQUENCE TO ENABLE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO A JOINT EFFORT TO SOLVE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED BY IT.

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WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH ALL THE PARTIES AT THE CONFERENCE ON THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION, WHICH INDISPUTABLY PROVIDES FOR GENUINE MAJORITY RULE, WITH APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND MINORITIES. IT IS A CONSTITUTION WHICH, WHEN IT IS IMPLEMENTED, WILL FULFIL THE ASPIRATIONS FOR WHICH NATIONALIST LEADERS IN RHODESIA HAVE BEEN STRIVING FOR MANY YEARS.

THE QUESTION OF MAJORITY RULE, WHICH WAS THE CAUSE OF THE WAR, HAS THEREFORE BEEN RESOLVED. THE QUESTION NOW AT ISSUE IS WHO IS TO EXERCISE POWER UNDER THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT THE CHOICE OF THEIR FUTURE GOVERNMENT MUST BE LEFT TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO DECIDE IN FREE ELECTIONS SUPERVISED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. WE HAVE MADE PROPOSALS TO ENABLE SUCH ELECTIONS TO BE HELD. THE KEY ELEMENT IN THEM IS THE APPOINTMENT OF A BRITISH GOVERNOR IN WHOM EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY WILL BE VESTED UNTIL INDEPENDENCE. BISHOP MUZOREWA AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE DECLARED THEIR READINESS TO HAND OVER THEIR MINISTERIAL POWERS TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL STANDING TO THE TEST IN ELECTIONS HELD UNDER HIS AUTHORITY. THIS WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION FOR THEM TO TAKE. BUT THEY HAVE DONE IT IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND THE WELFARE OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN AND OF ENABLING RHODESIA TO BE BROUGHT TO INDEPENDENCE WITH WIDE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE.

THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE NOT YET AGREED TO OUR PROPOSALS : WITH YOUR HELP, WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL DO SO. THEY ARE BEING ASKED, ON A STRICTLY EQUAL BASIS, TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE TEST IN ELECTIONS HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. OUR CONCERN IN BRINGING ALL OUR OTHER FORMER DEPENDENT TERRITORIES TO INDEPENDENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND NOT TO FAVOUR THE CLAIMS OF ONE PARTY OR THE OTHER. THE PRESENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DISCHARGE ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE : AND WE ARE IN A POSITION TO DO SO.

IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AGREE TO THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD, WE WILL ARRANGE NEGOTIATIONS ON A CEASE-FIRE INCLUDING THE MILITARY COMMANDERS ON BOTH SIDES. WE ENVISAGE THAT THERE WILL BE A CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION, UNDER THE GOVERNOR, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THERE WILL BE ARRANGEMENTS TO MONITOR THE CEASE-FIRE, UNDER BRITISH AUSPICES, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF SOME OTHER COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL AGREE TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS. THEY WILL BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR CASE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA. WE SHALL GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO WHATEVER GOVERNMENT EMERGES FROM THE ELECTIONS: BUT WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER POWER TO ANY PARTY WHICH IS NOT READY TO WIN IT IN ELECTIONS.

I KNOW THAT THIS IS A SUBJECT OF GREAT CONCERN TO ALL AFRICAN LEADERS. IF OUR PROPOSALS ARE REJECTED, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ANY OTHER BASIS. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN ME IN URGING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A FAIR AND HONOURABLE SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIA PROBLEM.

MESSAGE ENDS.

CARRINGTON

FILES

RHODESIA D
OADS
NAD
PUSD
PLANNING STAFF
ES & SD
CCD
FRD
UND
LEGAL ADVISERS
(MR FREELAND)
(MR FIFOOT)
ECON D
PCD
DEF D
OID

NEWS D
PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
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PS/MR HURD
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SIR J GRAHAM
LORD N G LENNOX
MISS BROWN
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MR WILLSON
MR ASPIN

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