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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON
SEPTEMBER 1979

Summary of the proceedings of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Conference, Monday 17 September

Lancaster House
17 September 1979

PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Sir M Havers

Mr R Luce

Sir A Duff

Mr D M Day

Mr R A C Byatt

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr P J Barlow

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mr R M J Lyne

Mr M J Richardson

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr R G Mugabe

Mr J M Tongogara

Mr E R Kadungure

Mr H Ushewokunze

Mr J Tungamirai

Mr E Zvobgo

Mr S Mubako

Mr W Kamba

Mr J M Nkomo

Mr J W Msika

Mr T G Silundika

Mr A M Chambati

Mr L Baron

Mr S K Sibanda

Mr E Mlambo

Mr C Ndlovu

Miss T Siziba

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Bishop A T Muzorewa

Dr S C Mundawarara

Mr E L Bulle

Mr F Zindoga

Mr D C Mukome

Mr G B Nyandoro

Rev N Sithole

Mr L Nyemba

Chief K Ndiweni

Mr Z M Bafanah

Mr I D Smith

Mr D C Smith

Mr R Cronje

Mr C Andersen

Dr J Kamusikiri

Mr G Pincus

Mr L G Smith

Mr D Zamchiya

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

The session began at 1605 hours.

THE CHAIRMAN asked the Lord Privy Seal to respond to some more of the questions posed by Dr Mundawarara on Friday 14 September (Conference Paper CC(79)12). SIR I GILMOUR said that Dr Mundawarara had asked for clarification on how the Public Service could take account of the need to receive advice of properly qualified and experienced persons. There were various ways to achieve this. First, qualifications or minimum experience for members or officers of the Commissions could be prescribed; secondly, it would be possible to state how the Commissions should set about their No doubt other delegations would have views on this. Dr Mundawarara had also asked how the President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, would be able to give the Public Service and other Commissions certain directions. He had wanted to know how the Civil Service would remain nonpolitical. The Lard Privy Seal said that it was right and proper that the composition of the Public Service should reflect the national character and aspirations of the people. There had been frequent criticisms of artificial imbalance in the existing Public Service. It was for a freely elected government to have the power to redress this imbalance. Dr Mundawarara's final point had concerned the careers of existing members of the Civil Service and Armed Forces. The Lord Privy Seal said that such public servants should /not

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