

CONFIDENTIAL

OPS Subject filed on Rhodesia situation Pt II

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
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TO IMMEDIATE MAPUTO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 173 OF 10 DEKEMBER

AND TO BAGHDAD

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK

MIPT RHODESIA

- FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE (TO BE DELIVERED IF NECESSARY IN BAGHDAD)

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL  
DEAR PRESIDENT,

THIS MORNING IN THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE PETER CARRINGTON MADE A FINAL PRESENTATION OF OUR DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR A CEASEFIRE. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PROPOSING A CEASEFIRE COMMISSION ON WHICH THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF BOTH SIDES WILL BE REPRESENTED AND WHICH WILL HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISING THE CEASEFIRE. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE COMPLIANCE OF THEIR FORCES WITH THE CEASEFIRE WILL REST WITH THE COMMANDERS ON BOTH SIDES. WE ARE PROPOSING THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT PLACES IN THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS, WHERE THEIR SECURITY, ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CAN BE PROVIDED FOR. THEY WILL ASSEMBLE WITH THEIR ARMS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THEIR OWN COMMANDERS. THE PROCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL BE RECIPROCAL. PROVIDED THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES IS COMPLETE AND THAT THERE IS A CESSATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF ARMED PATRIOTIC FRONT PERSONNEL FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES INTO RHODESIA, THE PROCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT WILL BE COMPLETE THE FORCES WILL NO LONGER BE IN CONTACT AND THE RHODESIAN FORCES WILL NOT NEED TO DEPLOY FROM THEIR COMPANY BASES. WE ARE ALSO PROPOSING A SUBSTANTIAL MONITORING FORCE TO ASSIST WITH THE OBSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CEASEFIRE. THE FORCE, WHICH WILL INCLUDE CONTINGENTS FROM SOME OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES, IS STANDING BY AND IS READY TO REACH RHODESIA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

WE HAVE ALREADY ENACTED THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE: AND THERE IS AGREEMENT

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IN THE CONFERENCE THAT ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE SHOULD BE HELD UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A BRITISH GOVERNOR WITH FULL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS.

THE APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF RHODESIA OF LORD SOAMES, A VERY SENIOR CABINET MINISTER, DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE TASK OF BRINGING THE STATE OF REBELLION IN RHODESIA TO AN END AND ENABLING THE COUNTRY TO BE BROUGHT TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE. LORD SOAMES WILL BE LEAVING LONDON TODAY TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN SALISBURY. WHEN HE ARRIVES THERE TOMORROW AND HIS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTED, THE STATE OF REBELLION IN RHODESIA WILL HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END. THE GOVERNOR WILL SET IN HAND IMMEDIATELY THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE WITH AN EQUAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS. HE WILL ALSO SET IN HAND WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO NORMALISE RELATIONS BETWEEN RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. RHODESIA WILL HAVE RETURNED TO LAWFUL GOVERNMENT AS PART OF HER MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS. A BRITISH AUTHORITY IN SALISBURY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROCESS OF FINALISING THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CEASEFIRE. IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT, FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES, POLICE ETC SO THAT THE LOGISTIC AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR THE CEASEFIRE AND FOR THE SECURITY AND ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER AGREED REQUIREMENTS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES.

BRITAIN HAS BEEN URGED FOR MANY YEARS TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY AND TO CARRY OUT IS RESPONSIBILITY TO DECOLONISE RHODESIA. THIS WE ARE NOW DOING. IT IS OF COURSE ONE OF OUR ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT, PROVIDED THEY ARE PREPARED TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE TEST IN FREE ELECTIONS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CAMPAIGN PEACEFULLY. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT, WITH GOODWILL, FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THE CEASEFIRE CAN BE REACHED IN LONDON IN THE NEXT ONE OR TWO DAYS. WE WOULD WISH TO SEE THE CEASEFIRE COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, THEREBY SPARING THE PEOPLE OF YOUR COUNTRY AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA ANY FURTHER SUFFERING OF THE KIND THEY HAVE HAD TO BEAR FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

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YOUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN EARLIER PHASES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOW EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO ACCEPT THE CEASEFIRE PROPOSALS AND TO AGREE THAT THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. WE STAND READY TO ASSIST WITH THE PROCESS OF BRINGING ABOUT THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO RHODESIA. WE SHALL COUNT ON YOUR COOPERATION IN ENSURING A CESSATION OF CROSS-BORDER MILITARY ACTIVITY BY THE MOVEMENT OF RHODESIAN FORCES INTO MOZAMBIQUE OR BY THE MOVEMENT OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES INTO RHODESIA. WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH MILITARY LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

A SETTLEMENT IS NOW WITHIN OUR GRASP. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND FULLY INTEND TO DO SO. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS.

WITH BEST WISHES.

MARAGARET THATCHER

CARRINGTON

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