

Ops

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Subject file - Rhodesia

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ZZ LUSAKA

OO DAR ES SALAAM

GRS 837

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T23A/80**

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 061110Z FEB 80

TO F L A S H LUSAKA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 72 OF 6 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY, MAPUTO, DAR ES SALAAM, WASHINGTON,  
UKMIS NEW YORK.

RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON ON 4 FEBRUARY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION IN A RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA WOULD LIKE TO RESUME NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE APPROACH YOU RECEIVED FROM CHONA LAST MONTH. AS IT HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SEE CHONA TO DELIVER MY REPLY, I CONSIDER IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FOLLOW UP THE KAUNDA/FRASER APPROACH DIRECTLY.

2. PLEASE ARRANGE THEREFORE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA. YOU SHOULD EMPHASISE THAT IT IS A STRICTLY PERSONAL MESSAGE AND ENSURE THAT IT IS DELIVERED DISCREETLY, AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BEGINS

DEAR KENNETH, IT IS SOME TIME SINCE WE WERE IN TOUCH. IT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO ME THAT ISSUES HAVE ARISEN WHICH HAVE PUT OUR RELATIONS UNDER A TEMPORARY CLOUD. I KNOW WE WOULD BOTH LIKE TO SEE ANGLO/ZAMBIAN RELATIONS RESTORED TO THEIR CUSTOMARY CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY STATE AND, AS ALWAYS, I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT ANY STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE TO ACHIEVE THIS.

WITH ONLY THREE WEEKS TO GO UNTIL THE RHODESIAN ELECTIONS,

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF I WERE TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I SEE THE SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY. AS YOU KNOW, OUR OBJECTIVE THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN TO HOLD A FAIR ELECTION WHICH WILL ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO CHOOSE THEIR GOVERNMENT FREELY. I HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY MR NKOMO'S EFFORTS, SINCE HIS RETURN, TO CREATE A BASIS FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ALL COMMUNITIES. THIS AUGURS WELL.

THERE HAVE, INEVITABLY, BEEN PROBLEMS. BUT CONSIDER WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. RHODESIA IS AGAIN AT PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS, WITH ALL THE BENEFITS WHICH THIS CAN BRING: THE REOPENING OF THE BORDERS: A START TO THE RETURN OF REFUGEES, OVER WHICH WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION: JOINT PATROLS BETWEEN ELEMENTS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S FORCES AND THE RHODESIAN POLICE: AND A DRAMATIC DROP IN CASUALTIES SINCE CEASEFIRE DAY. THE OBJECTIVE, WHICH WE BOTH SHARE, OF A STABLE GOVERNMENT BASED ON MAJORITY RULE, IS WITHIN REACH.

I MUST TELL YOU, HOWEVER, THAT I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY THE DANGER TO THE SETTLEMENT PRESENTED BY INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS. THIS IS REACHING A LEVEL WHERE, IF IT CONTINUES UNCHECKED, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR FREE POLITICAL ACTIVITY TO TAKE PLACE IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME FAULTS ON ALL SIDES, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ZANLA FORCES HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREAT MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS AND THAT ELEMENTS OF THEM HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE ASSEMBLY PLACES IN ORDER TO PRACTISE INTIMIDATION IN THE RURAL AREAS. OUR HIGH COMMISSION CAN GIVE YOU FULL DETAILS OF THE INCIDENTS CAUSED BY ZANLA. ALL THE OTHER PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THIS. IT HAS REACHED A POINT WHERE MR NKOMO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO HOLD MEETINGS IN CERTAIN AREAS, AND OFFICIALS OF HIS PARTY HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY ZANLA. IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HOLD OTHER PARTIES TO THEIR COMMITMENTS IF THIS ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF ZANLA IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL IMPOSE PENALTIES ON ANY PARTY WHICH CONSISTENTLY ACTS IN BREACH OF THE AGREEMENTS. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE A DETERRENT. BUT IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL THAT MR MUGABE SHOULD ALSO BE MADE TO FEEL THE CONCERN OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THIS. RESOLUTIONS AT THE OAU AND THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH MAGNIFY PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE RHODESIAN FORCES, WHILE COMPLETELY IGNORING BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRE AND INTIMIDATION BEING PRACTISED BY ZANLA, ONLY ENCOURAGE THE BELIEF THAT THE ELECTION CAN BE WON BY UNFAIR MEANS. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO SEE FAIR ELECTIONS AND WOULD PREFER A CONTINUATION OF THE WAR. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE RHODESIA'S INTERESTS AT HEART, OR THOSE OF HER NEIGHBOURS, WHO WOULD BE SO BADLY AFFECTED BY THE COLLAPSE OF THE SETTLEMENT.

I URGE YOU VERY SINCERELY TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE OVER THESE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO ENSURE THAT NO ENCOURAGEMENT IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO PRACTISE INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. THIS WILL REQUIRE THOSE WHO ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO THE SETTLEMENT TO SPEAK OUT OPENLY AGAINST ABUSES WHICH THREATEN TO PUT ALL THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AT RISK. I ALSO URGE YOU TO DO ALL YOU CAN TO AVOID FURTHER CONFRONTATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND OAU: THE ELECTION CANNOT BE FOUGHT IN NEW YORK OR ADDIS ABABA, IT HAS TO BE WON WITH VOTES FREELY CAST AT THE POLLING STATIONS IN RHODESIA ITSELF. THIS IS NOT A TIME FOR RESOLUTIONS AND PROPAGANDA: A DETERMINED STAND IS NEEDED AGAINST THE REAL DANGERS TO THE GOAL OF FREE ELECTIONS, AND IT CAN ONLY BE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS WHOSE INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE.

I HOPE THAT WE CAN STAY CLOSELY IN TOUCH ON THESE PROBLEMS DURING THESE CRUCIAL WEEKS.

WITH BEST WISHES  
YOURS SINCERELY  
MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS

CARRINGTON

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