

[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

30.

PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR D MAITLAND
MR DAY
SIR L ALLINSON
~~MR ASPIN~~

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

5.

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR R L WADE GERY)
MR P M MAXEY) CABINET
MR GOULTY) OFFICE
~~MR W N WENBAN SMITH~~)
~~DIO~~)

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HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D

HD/S AF D

~~HD/UND~~

HD/FUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT

HD/WAD

PS/SIR I SINCLAIR

MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER RMK200A

MR FIFOOT

RESIDENT CLERK

ORS 500A

SECRET

DESK BY FCO 040700Z MAR 80

DESK BY SALISBURY 040500Z MAR 80

FM CAPETOWN 031045Z MAR 80

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TEL NO 180 OF 3 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY

SALISBURY TEL NO 926 TO FCO

RHODESIA ELECTION

I HAVE SPOKEN TO PIK BOTHA THREE TIMES ON THE TELEPHONE THIS EVENING, TWICE WHEN HE WAS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND HAVE GIVEN HIM A PREVIEW OF THE LIKELY RESULT. HE WAS AT FIRST PREDICTABLY EXCITABLE, CLAIMING THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN CHEATING OVER THE BALLOT BOXES, WE OUGHT TO CALL ANOTHER ELECTION, AND THIS KIND OF RESULT WAS BOUND TO PROVOKE 'A COUP'. BUT ON THE LAST OCCASION WHEN I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO HIM AT GREATER LENGTH AND HE WAS ALONE, HE WAS MORE PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT IT. AFTER SAYING THAT THE RESULT SHOWED HOW THE WEST WAS LOSING OUT EVERYWHERE TO THE RUSSIANS AND THAT THERE WERE ROUGH TIMES AHEAD,

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WHERE TO THE RUSSIANS AND THAT THERE WERE ROUGH TIMES AHEAD, HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD LEARNED IN LIFE THAT ONE DOES NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTAND A GIVEN SITUATION IMMEDIATELY AND THAT AFTER A LAPSE OF TIME IT LOOKS DIFFERENT. "IN A HUNDRED YEARS TIME NO ONE WILL REMEMBER IT". I ENCOURAGED HIM IN THIS LINE OF THOUGHT BY SAYING THAT IT WAS A NEW SITUATION WHICH NONE OF US HAD CONTEMPLATED AND THAT WE WOULD NEED TO THINK TOGETHER CAREFULLY ABOUT HOW TO REACT TO IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD WARNED ME LAST OCTOBER THAT THE PROCRASTINATIONS AT THE LANCASTER HOUSE CONFERENCE MIGHT LEAD TO THIS. I SAID THAT THIS REMARK MIGHT HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED HAD MUZOREWA LOST BY A NARROWER GAP BUT THIS COULD NOT POSSIBLY EXPLAIN SUCH A SWEEPING VICTORY, ANY MORE THAN SUGGESTIONS OF CHEATING IN THE ELECTIONS COULD. WE ALL HAD TO FACE UP TO A NEW SITUATION, HE DID NOT DISPUTE THIS.

2. PIK SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SUGGESTION. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO GIVE THE S.A.G. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RESULT AND PERHAPS CONSULT THEM BEFORE MUGABE WAS ACTUALLY ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT? IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE TO THE PRIME MINISTER IF WE COULD DO THIS. HE SAID IT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SUGGEST THAT IN ASKING THIS HE WAS HOPING AGAINST HOPE, BUT I SAID I WOULD PASS ON HIS REQUEST.

3. I HAVE SINCE TALKED TO SIR A. DUFF ON THE TELEPHONE AND HAVE GATHERED FROM HIM THAT IF POSSIBLE THE GOVERNOR WILL TRY TO AVOID A SITUATION ARISING TOMORROW MORNING WHERE MUGABE IS ACTUALLY ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT, THOUGH MUGABE HIMSELF MAY NOT GO ALONG WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT HE SHOULD WAIT TO SEE WHETHER HE CAN BROADEN THE BASE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT THE MORE WE CAN SPIN THINGS OUT IN SALISBURY THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT WE CAN PERSUADE THE S.A.G. TO REACT SENSIBLY.

4. I HAVE KEPT LAURENS VAN DER POST FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND HE IS DOING HIS BEST THROUGH KOORNHOF TO COUNSEL MODERATION.

5. DUFF MENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS TO ME IN FCO TEL NO 119, BUT I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THIS.

LEAHY

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