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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

20 December 1979

*Dear Michael,*

*J. A. Hunt - 21/12*

Rhodesia: The Prime Minister's Meeting  
with Bishop Muzorewa: Friday 21 December: 10.30

Bishop Muzorewa will be accompanied by one or two of the leading members of his delegation (possibly including General Walls). They are due to meet Lord Carrington before calling on the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister will be aware of the very serious last minute difficulties which arose with the Salisbury delegation over signature of the agreement. These arose in large part from the statements made to the press by Mr Mugabe on 17 December, which threw doubt on his intentions to comply with the requirements of the ceasefire agreement. Mr Mugabe suggested that additional assembly places would be allocated to the Patriotic Front in the central areas of Rhodesia; and that it would take six to eight weeks for the Patriotic Front to comply with the agreement. We have assured Bishop Muzorewa and his delegation that the only addition which has been made is that of a sixteenth assembly place for the Patriotic Front. We do not envisage that additional assembly places will be necessary. If there was any practical requirement, the Governor would first seek the agreement of Bishop Muzorewa and General Walls.

The Salisbury delegation are concerned about cross-border movement. The ceasefire requires that all cross-border movement should cease from midnight on 21 December. We will be looking to the Zambian and Mozambique governments to play an active part in ensuring compliance with this requirement. The full ceasefire comes into effect at midnight on 28 December and the process of disengagement and the assembly of Patriotic Front forces must be carried out over the next seven days. The efforts made by the Patriotic Front commanders to assemble their forces will be a very important test of the seriousness of the Patriotic Front's intentions to comply with the ceasefire. We are concerned about Mr Mugabe's remarks and have made clear in public, as well as to the Patriotic Front commanders, that such an interpretation would be totally unacceptable.

/The Salisbury

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The Salisbury delegation are looking for an assurance that, if the Patriotic Front do not assemble their forces, they will be banned from participating in the elections. Lord Carrington will be making at the signature ceremony a very firm speech about compliance with the agreement. The Governor has the authority to take whatever action is necessary in relation to any individuals or party guilty of systematic breaches of the ceasefire. A failure by the Patriotic Front to make a serious effort to assemble their forces would create a serious situation. If they then continued to break the ceasefire and practised widespread intimidation, very firm action would have to be taken. (We of course cannot commit ourselves to proscribing the Patriotic Front as a whole from participating in the elections if they make a serious effort, but fail to achieve a complete assembly of their forces. It may, for instance, be necessary to distinguish the action taken vis-a-vis various sections of the Patriotic Front. We shall naturally make it clear that we cannot allow any party to win the elections by cheating).

*yours man*

*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

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