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TO IMMEDIATE OTTAWA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 42 OF 30 JANUARY

RHODESIA

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T20 A/80

MR CLARK WROTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON 24 DECEMBER (RECEIVED ON 27 DECEMBER) TO CONGRATULATE HER UPON THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE CONFERENCE. THE LETTER WAS UNFORTUNATELY MISLAID AND HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A PROPER REPLY; BUT WE HOPE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK CANADIAN SUPPORT AT THE U.N. PLEASE THEREFORE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR CLARK (EXPLAINING TO HIS OFFICE THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY).

BEGINS

DEAR MR PRIME MINISTER,

I GREATLY APPRECIATED YOUR VERY KIND MESSAGE OF 24 DECEMBER ON THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE CONFERENCE. YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT DURING THE CONFERENCE WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. I AM ALSO MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR AGREEING TO LEND AIRCRAFT TO SUPPORT THE ELECTION OBSERVERS. THIS IS INVALUABLE.

CHRISTOPHER SOAMES HAS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN RHODESIA SINCE HIS ARRIVAL. THE CEASEFIRE IN PARTICULAR HAS SO FAR BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN WE DARED HOPE (ALTHOUGH BREACHES OF IT, PARTICULARLY BY ZANU, CONTINUE AND ALL THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS ARE NOW BACK IN THE COUNTRY TO FIGHT THE ELECTIONS. IT HAS BEEN NO EASY TASK TO TRY TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR FAIR ELECTIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A LONG AND BITTER WAR.

THERE IS ONE PARTICULAR PROBLEM ON WHICH I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT. THAT IS THE MORE BY SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE THE ISSUE OF RHODESIA TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I FEAR THAT THIS COULD DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, PARTICULARLY IF THE OUTCOME IS A WILDLY UNBALANCED AND ONE-SIDED RESOLUTION. THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHED MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH

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THE PROBELMS WHICH INEVITABLY ARISE: IT IS FUNCTIONING WELL, WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S PARTICIPATION. DIFFERENCES MUST BE SETTLED THROUGH THESE CHANNELS. I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT US IN TRYING TO KEEP THE TEMPERATURE AT THE UN DOWN.

MANY OTHER DIFFICULTIES NO DOUBT LIE AHEAD BUT THERE IS EVERY REASON TO HOPE THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE FOR RHODESIA IN A FEW WEEKS TIME. LIKE YOU, I HOPE THIS WILL PROVIDE AN IMPETUS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO WORLD PROBLEMS.

YOURS SINCERLY

MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS:

CARRINGTON

FILES  
NAD  
RHOD.D