

CC(79)36

COPY NO 89

SIXTEENTH PLENARY SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the
Sixteenth Plenary Session of the
Conference, Thursday 25 October 1979

Lancaster House
25 October 1979

PRESENT:

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Sir J Graham

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr P J Barlow

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mr S J Gomersall

Mr R M J Lyne

Mrs A J Phillips

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr R G Mugabe

Mr S V Muzenda

Mr E Z Tekere

Mr J M Tongogara

Mr H Ushewokunze

Mr D Mutumbuka

Mr J Tungamirai

Mr S Mubako

Mr J M Nkomo

Mr J M Chinamano

Mr J W Msika

Mr T G Silundika

Mr A M Chambati

Mr John Nkomo

Mr S K Sibanda

Miss T Siziba

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Bishop A T Muzorewa
Dr S C Mundawarara
Mr E L Bulle
Mr F Zindoga
Mr D C Mukome
Mr G B Nyandoro
Rev N Sithole
Mr L Nyemba
Chief K Ndiweni
Mr Z M Bafanah
Mr I D Smith
Mr D C Smith
Mr C Andersen
Dr J Kamusikiri
Mr G Pincus
Mr L G Smith
Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins
Mr S V Mutambanengwe

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

RESTRICTED

The session commenced at 17.04.

THE CHAIRMAN said that, during the morning session, Bishop Muzorewa had asked a number of questions (Conference Paper CC(79)35) on the British Government's proposals for implementing the Independence Constitution, and that he had undertaken to let the Conference have his answers to those questions. He then read a statement containing the answers, subsequently circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)37. At the end of the statement MR MUGABE and MR NKOMO confirmed that their response to the British proposals would be ready the following morning.

MR NKOMO asked for clarification of the Chairman's remark that "all parties who participate in the elections will be expected to do so on the basis of acceptance of the Independence Constitution".

After some discussion THE LORD PRIVY SEAL said that anybody could campaign in the Elections to bring about change, provided that his aim was to effect change by constitutional means. It would be wrong to campaign in the Elections and then use violence or illegal means afterwards to alter the Constitution. MR NKOMO said that the Chairman should correct that part of his statement. THE CHAIRMAN said that he thought that it would be better for comment to be made after his statement had been circulated.

MR NKOMO then asked whether, if a ceasefire was concluded,

/there

RESTRICTED

there was any need for the Chairman's statement that parties taking part in the elections should renounce violence.

This was superfluous if a ceasefire had been agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the point was that during the election campaign and afterwards disputes should be settled by the ballot box, and not by the bullet.

At the Chairman's suggestion, it was agreed to adjourn until 10.00 on Friday 26 October.

The session ended at 17.20.