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Subject filed a
na (MAD) Rhodesia
PT III

GRS 675

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DESKBY 280700Z

FM FCO 271807Z JUL 79

TO IMMEDIATE LAGOS

TELNO 439 OF 27 JULY

INFO CANBERRA

T 50A/79T
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 50 A / 79 T

MIPT: PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR FRASER.

1. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR MALCOLM,

AS YOU KNOW, I FOUND OUR DISCUSSIONS IN CANBERRA ABOUT RHODESIA PARTICULARLY VALUABLE. THANK YOU FOR KEEPING CLOSELY IN TOUCH SINCE THEN THROUGH ANDREW PEACOCK.

PETER CARRINGTON TALKED TO ANDREW PEACOCK ON 24 JULY ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THIS QUESTION AT LUSAKA AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF I BROUGHT YOU UP TO DATE WITH OUR THINKING BEFORE YOU SEE GENERAL OBASANJO. I SHALL OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT HIS PRESENT VIEWS ON RHODESIA.

WE SHALL DO ALL WE CAN TO EXPLAIN OUR APPROACH ON RHODESIA FRANKLY TO THE COMMONWEALTH AT LUSAKA, AND TO GAIN THEIR UNDERSTANDING. WE SHALL SHOW THAT WE WISH TO DEAL WITH THE UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERNS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO EMPHASISE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR RHODESIA THAT ANY SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED INTERNATIONALLY, AND THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO INVOLVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. AT THE SAME TIME, I AM CONVINCED IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO LET THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING DEVELOP INTO A NEGOTIATING FORUM ABOUT THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT. THIS WOULD MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE A FAIR AND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. IT MUST BE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM TO TAKE THE LEAD WHILE DEMONSTRATING TO ALL CONCERNED THAT WE ARE GENUINELY TAKING ACCOUNT OF THEIR VIEWS.

I SET OUT OUR GENERAL APPROACH IN MY SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 25 JULY. I STRESSED THAT WE WISHED TO HELP THOSE WHO ACCEPTED DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL WAYS OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM; THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY THE SIX PRINCIPLES; THAT WE WERE WHOLLY COMMITTED TO GENUINE BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA;

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/AND THAT

AND THAT WE WOULD AIM TO MAKE OUR PROPOSALS COMPARABLE TO THE BASIS ON WHICH INDEPENDENCE WAS GRANTED TO OTHER FORMER BRITISH TERRITORIES IN AFRICA. SOME OF OUR COMMONWEALTH PARTNERS, INCLUDING NIGERIA, HAVE SAID THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT ANY GOVERNMENT IN SALISBURY WHICH HAS A PROPER DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS, AND THAT THEIR OBJECTION TO BISHOP MUZOREWA'S ADMINISTRATION IS THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER IT TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN A FULLY DEMOCRATIC MANNER. THOUGH THE OUTCOME OF THE OAU SUMMIT AT MONROVIA IS DISCOURAGING, I HOPE THAT THESE GOVERNMENTS WILL ACCEPT THAT OUR INTENTION TO ACHIEVE A DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT IS RIGHT: AND WILL SEE THE STRENGTH OF OUR ARGUMENT THAT THOSE WHO HAVE SO FAR SOUGHT TO BRING MAJORITY RULE BY FORCE SHOULD NOW PARTICIPATE IN A DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS.

I HOPE YOU WILL EMPHASISE TO GENERAL OBASANJO THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE NOT GOING TO LUSAKA WITH THEIR MINDS MADE UP ON THE PRECISE TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT. I HAVE DESCRIBED IN MY SPEECH THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH WE SHALL BE GUIDED. BUT WE HAVE DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM PUTTING FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT LUSAKA.

I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND TO HAVING AN EARLY TALK.

WITH BEST WISHES,

YOURS SINCERELY,
MARGARET THATCHER.

CARRINGTON

FILES
RHOD. D.
OADS
N AM D
NEWS D
PUSD
PLANNING STAFF
ES & SD
CCD
FRD
UND
LEGAL ADVS (MR. FREELAND)
(MR. FIFOOT)
ECON D
P & CD
SPD

DEF D
OID
PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR. LUCE
PS/MR. RIDLEY
PS/MR. HURD
PS/PUS
SIR A DUFF
SIR A PARSONS
LORD N G LENNOX
MISS BROWN
MR. THOMAS
MR. WILLSON
MR. WILLIAMS
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RHODESIA POLICY