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DIP

FM LUSAKA 020930Z JUL 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 577 OF 2 JULY

Prime Minister

BM
3/7

PERSONAL FOR SIR ANTONY DUFF

CHGM

1. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY - GENERAL, WHO ARRIVED AT THE WEEKEND, MADE A NUMBER OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO TAKE SOME OF THE HEAT OUT OF THE SITUATION. HE DESCRIBED SPECULATION ABOUT A CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE CHGM, AWAY FROM LUSAKA, AS "NONSENSE" AND EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT THE LUSAKA MEETING WOULD BE A SUCCESS.
2. RAMPHAL HAD A LONG TALK WITH ME YESTERDAY EARLY AFTERNOON. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD KAUNDA TO DISREGARD HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IN FACT THE HOLDING OF THE CONFERENCE WAS ON A KNIFE EDGE. HE HAD FLOATED HIS IDEA (WHICH I GATHER HE DISCUSSED WITH YOU) FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND KAUNDA HAD BEEN RECEPTIVE AND OFFERED TO ARRANGE A DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH HIMSELF, RAMPHAL AND NKOMO ALONE. RAMPHAL SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE ME AFTER THE DINNER TO LET ME KNOW HOW IT WENT.
3. IN DISCUSSING THE PROPOSITION I SAID I THOUGHT NKOMO MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH SOME OF HIS OWN PEOPLE WHO WERE ALREADY INDISCIPLINED, CITING CONSULAR PROBLEMS IN THE LIVINGSTONE AREA WHERE WE KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THAT THE ZIPRA COMMANDER CAN DO LITTLE TO KEEP HIS MEN IN ORDER. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE PROBABLE ATTITUDE OF MUGABE. ON THE QUESTION OF SECURITY I TOLD RAMPHAL THAT THE MOST AKWARD SPOT NEAR LUSAKA WAS THE AREA TO THE WEST ON THE OLD MUMBWA ROAD AND MENTIONED THE FIRING ON 12 JUNE AND OTHER EXAMPLES. I HE COULD GET KAUNDA AND NKOMO TO CLEAR THOSE CAMPS IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP THOUGH I ADDED THAT KAUNDA HAD SAID ONLY NON-COMBATANTS WOULD BE ALLOWED NEAR TOWN.
4. UNBEKNOWN TO US, WHILE WE WERE TALKING THE RHODESIANS WERE RAIDING IN THAT VERY AREA. ACCORDINGLY THE DINNER IN FACT TOOK PLACE SO LATE THAT RAMPHAL ONLY SPOKE TO ME THIS MORNING BEFORE HIS

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DEPARTURE FOR ARUSHA. HE SAID THE DINNER WENT WELL AND KNOMO HAD BEEN RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA. HE WOULD HOWEVER NEED TO CONSULT HIS PEOPLE AND ALSO MUGABE. RAMPHAL GOT THE IMPRESSION IT MIGHT ONLY BE A CASE OF INFORMING MUGABE NOT SEEKING HIS AGREEMENT. NKOMO HAD STRESSED THAT THERE MUST BE NO LEAKS IN ADVANCE OF HIS CONSULTATIONS AND STRICT SECRECY MUST BE OBSERVED. HE DISMISSED THE IDEA THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE WITH SOME OF HIS PEOPLE (BUT THAT IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED).

5. ON THE RAID NKOMO SAID THAT IT WAS NOT AN AMMUNITION DUMP THAT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BUT ONLY A TRANSIT CAMP. KAUNDA SAID HIS TROOPS HAD GONE TO THE AREA BUT THE RHODESIANS HAD LEFT BEFORE THEY ARRIVED. BUT THERE HAD BEEN A REAL RISK OF DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ZAMBIAN AND RHODESIAN TROOPS. KAUNDA SEEMED TO RAMPHAL TO BE RELIEVED THAT THIS HAD BEEN AVOIDED.

6. I HAVE MARKED THIS TELEGRAM ONLY TO YOU IN VIEW OF THE DELICACY OF THE SUBJECT.

ALLINSON

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