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CC(79)44

NINETEENTH PLENARY SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the
Nineteenth Plenary Session of the
Conference, Monday 29 October 1979.

Lancaster House
29 October 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation:

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Mr R Luce

Sir J Graham

Mr D M Day

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr P J Barlow

Mr A M Layden

Mr S J Gomersall

Mrs A J Phillips

Mr M C Wood

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Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Bishop A T Muzorewa

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 R Cronje

Mr C Andersen

Dr J Kamusikiri

Mr G Pincus

Mr L G Smith

Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins

Mr D Zamchiya

Mr G Mutambanengwe

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo	Mr R G Mugabe
Mr J W Msika	Mr S V Muzenda
Mr T G Silundika	Mr J M Tongogara
Mr A M Chambati	Dr H Ushewokunze
Mr L Baron	Mr J Tungamirai
Mr S K Sibanda	Mr E Zvobgo
Mr W Musarurwa	Mr S Mubako
Mr D N Madzimbabuto	Mr W Kamba
Miss E T Siziba	

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session started at 10.36.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he had discussed with Sir Ian Gilmour the meeting held on Saturday morning (27 October), and would like to welcome the acceptance of the broad principles of the British proposals by Bishop Muzorewa and his delegation; this had been a difficult decision. He understood that Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo's delegation had asked for time to consider Sir Ian Gilmour's statement and the meeting on Saturday had been adjourned on that basis. He asked whether Mr Mugabe or Mr Nkomo wished to make a statement.

MR NKOMO said that they had not yet prepared their statement, but that they had said to Sir Ian that they felt that general discussions should go ahead on the basis of the papers already tabled. The Conference should examine both sides' proposals to try to identify the differences of view. Their considered reply to Sir Ian Gilmour's statement would be handed over to the Conference in the next day or two.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the conditions under which an election would be held were relevant and he proposed that the Conference should discuss the proposals stage by stage, starting with the organisation of the elections. This could cover points in the papers submitted by both the Patriotic Front and the British delegations.

The Chairman then spoke on the basis of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the notes subsequently circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)45. He asked whether delegations had any comments.

/MR MUGABE

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MR MUGABE said that all present were agreed on the principle of free and fair elections; what concerned his delegation was the administrative structure which would be responsible for maintaining security.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he accepted that Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo's delegation had to be satisfied on conditions for free and fair elections. He sought to take those conditions in an order, and suggested that the Conference should first look at electoral considerations, and clear out of the way items which were common ground.

After some discussion, Mr Mugabe's and Mr Nkomo's delegation accepted the principles set out in paragraph 1 of Conference Paper CC(79)45.

The Chairman reiterated that he wanted at this stage to clear out of the way those items on which he felt there could be general agreement, for example the resettlement of detainees and refugees. He then went on to speak on the basis of paragraphs 3 to 8 of CC(79)45.

The Chairman asked if there were any comments at that stage. MR NKOMO said that he had no comments; they wished to hear all that the Chairman had to say.

THE CHAIRMAN continued on the basis of paragraphs 9 to 17 of CC(79)45.

MR MUGABE commented that the Chairman had provided the Conference with more detail, partly by way of extracts from his original statement. He suggested that the Chairman's comments

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be circulated. His delegation wanted the entire situation to be discussed logically. The Chairman had selected the election process itself and had left out the conditions leading to that process. THE CHAIRMAN said that his proposals would be circulated if Mr Mugabe wished. He was disappointed, however, that Mr Mugabe's delegation were not ready to comment.

BISHOP MUZOREWA said that he also would like the statement to be circulated. He wondered whether, as most of the discussion seemed to be between the UK delegation and that of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, his own delegation might be excused and the other two delegations might have a bilateral meeting. The CHAIRMAN said that he would like Bishop Muzorewa and delegation to hear his next comments, which would deal with the administration in the interim period.

The Chairman then spoke on the basis of notes which were subsequently circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)46. After concluding, he asked whether Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe would like to comment.

MR NKOMO asked whether these represented proposals. THE CHAIRMAN replied that they represented proposals for discussion which had been accepted in outline by Bishop Muzorewa and delegation, although they had not yet accepted the details. MR NKOMO then asked for the Chairman's remarks to be circulated so that they could be studied carefully and a clear reply made. He asked that the British Government study his delegation's

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document and reply fully; thereafter negotiation could take place. THE CHAIRMAN said that Sir Ian Gilmour had already replied to the Patriotic Front's documents; it had been made clear that certain points within them were unacceptable to the British Government. His comments that morning represented British proposals, and would be circulated: he asked that other delegations should study them, and then discuss them constructively and in good faith.

MR NKOMO again emphasized the need for discussion. THE CHAIRMAN replied that there had already been a good deal of discussion, represented for example by the British Government's proposals (CC(79)32), the Patriotic Front's two papers (CC(79)39 & 40) and the Lord Privy Seal's response (CC(79)42). He was prepared to discuss anything. It was, however, the British Government's responsibility to supervise and conduct elections and it was ultimately their duty to decide what could be done. The British Government were seeking agreement with the delegation of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, and with that of Bishop Muzorewa on questions of detail, as to what could be done and what the British Government would be prepared to accept. It would be wrong however if he led the delegation of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo to believe that the document they had put forward would be acceptable to the British Government: this was not the case, and ultimately the conduct of elections and the process of decolonisation remained the British Government's responsibility. He suggested that the notes on which his

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remarks had been based be circulated and that the Conference reconvene the following morning. He commented that much of what he had said filled out in detail what was already fairly clear.

MR I D SMITH asked if the Chairman would be presenting any more such papers. THE CHAIRMAN replied that there would be no more on the administration and elections although the proposals would be filled out after discussion. There also remained the problem of the cease-fire which would be tackled subsequently. MR MUGABE commented that the peace-keeping aspect was vital, as was the structural position of the forces; these were matters he would have wanted to see dealt with within proposals concerning conditions leading to free and fair elections. The Chairman had however chosen to deal with matters piecemeal. THE CHAIRMAN replied that that portion of the British Government's original proposals relating to the forces would best be spelt out in more detail with discussion of the cease-fire; it was not proposed to integrate the forces.

In response to a question from MR NKOMO the CHAIRMAN said that those involved in a cease-fire would be those involved in the fighting. MR NKOMO then made the point that when talking about the conditions for free and fair elections the Chairman seemed to have been talking only about existing forces. He had heard no reference to the other forces involved.

It was agreed that the Conference would reconvene at 10.30 on Tuesday 30 October.

The session adjourned at 11.20.