

[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

427

100

PS  
PS/SIR I GILMOUR  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR D MAITLAND  
MR DAY  
MR ASPIN

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
MR R L WADE GERY )  
MR P M MAXEY ) CABINET  
MR GOULTY ) OFFICE  
MR W N WENBAN SMITH )  
DIO )

.....  
HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D  
HD/S AF D  
HD/UND  
HD/PUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT  
HD/WAD  
PS/SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER FMK200A

*mb*

IMMEDIATE

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

ADVANCE COPY

VCONFIDENTIAL

FM SALISBURY 261047Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 823 OF 26 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK LUSAKA NAIROBI MAPUTO OTTAWA GABORONE  
DAR ES SALAAM LUANDA LAGOS MONROVIA WELLINGTON WASHINGTON CAPE TOWN  
CANBERRA E E C POSTS ADDIS ABABA

Read in full

**RHODESIA: NKOMO'S VIEWS**

1. I SAW NKOMO THIS MORNING AND EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT I DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE ACTION TO DISQUALIFY Z A N U (P F) IN ANY DISTRICT: OR TO DISENFRANCHISE ANY DISTRICT.
2. NKOMO ASKED HOW WE COULD SAY THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE FREE AND FAIR WHEN HE AND HIS PARTY AND OTHER PARTIES HAD BEEN COMPLETELY UNABLE TO CAMPAIGN IN LARGE PURTS OF MANICALAND, VICTORIA PROVINCE AND SOME PARTS OF THE MIDLANDS. Z A N L A WERE EVEN PREVENTING HIS PARTY CAMPAIGNING IN SOME T T L S IN MATABELELAND SOUTH. TWO

MORE OF HIS PARTY WORKERS HAD BEEN MURDERED BY Z A N L A YESTERDAY.

3. I TOLD NKOMO THAT I WAS EXTREMELY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH Z A N U (P F) HAD CONDUCTED THEMSELVES DURING THE CAMPAIGN. BUT I HAD CONCLUDED THAT IF I TOOK ACTION AGAINST THEM BEFORE THE ELECTIONS THIS WOULD GIVE MUGABE AN EXCUSE NOT TO ACCEPT THE OUTCOME AND IT WOULD AFFECT INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESULT. I ADDED THAT IN ANY EVENT I WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE CALLING ON THE LEADER OF THE LARGEST SINGLE PARTY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD BE FOR ME TO DISCERN WHO WAS BEST ABLE TO FORM THE COALITION LIKELY TO COMMAND A MAJORITY IN THE ASSEMBLY. WHAT WERE HIS INTENTIONS?

4. NKOMO INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS OF REVERTING TO AN ALLIANCE WITH MUGABE. HE REMAINS BITTER ABOUT MUGABE'S CONDUCT. HE SPOKE ANGRILY ABOUT NYERERE'S ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE HIS OWN SORT OF SOLUTION HERE AND ABOUT THE STATEMENT BY THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT AFRICA WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE RESULT IF MUGABE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNMENT.

5. NKOMO SAID THAT IN ORDER TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF THE SAILS OF NYERERE AND HIS ILK IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PRESENT CAREFULLY THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF THE ARMED FORCES. IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO PLAN FOR THE MOMENT WHEN IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE OR NECESSARY TO TRY TO WIN OVER SOME ELEMENTS OF Z A N L A. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD BE MAKING CLEAR TODAY THAT - AS IS THE CASE - THE SAME OFFER IS OPEN TO Z A N L A FORCES AND THAT WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO PUT IT INTO EFFECT.

6. THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH A REASONABLY GOOD UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US. NKOMO IS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH WALLS AND THE WHITES. I BELIEVE THAT HE REALISES THAT AN ATTEMPT TO REVERT TO A SIMPLE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALLIANCE IN ITS OLD FORM WOULD PROVOKE VERY STRONG REACTIONSE HERE. THE EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON HIM TO DO SO WILL MOUNT QUICKLY AND HE IS VERY CONCERNED THAT MUGABE WILL GET MORE SEATS THAN HE DOES. THERE IS ALSO A MAJOR PROBLEM TO BE OVERCOME IN TERMS OF THE PERSONAL RIVALRY BETWEEN HIM AND MUZOREWA.

7. KOMO AGREED THAT WE SHOULD PLAN FOR HIM IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTIONS TO VISIT THE REMAINING Z I P R A ASSEMBLY PLACES TO GIVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS FORCES TO STAY PUT. HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SENIOR RHODESIAN OFFICER (PROBABLY GENERAL MCCLEAN) AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MONITORING FORCE. WALLS HAS AGREED THAT A SIMILAR OFFER SHOULD BE MADE TO MUGABE THIS AFTERNOON.

FCO PASS ALL

SOAMES

NNNN