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FM FCO 220815Z AUG 79
TO PRIORITY MONROVIA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 22 AUGUST

Eric ra

RHODESIA: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO THE
PRIME MINISTER.

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24/8*

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT BY TELEGRAM DATED 9 AUGUST:
BEGINS:

QUOTE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH KEEN INTEREST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT MEETING WHICH WAS HELD IN LUSAKA AND
NOW THAT IT HAS COME TO A CLOSE I SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO EXTEND TO YOU MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE
OUTSTANDING SUCCESSES ACHIEVED DURING THIS HISTORIC
CONFERENCE WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED AS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT IN RECENT YEARS. I WAS INDEED
GRATIFIED TO LEARN OF DECISION TAKEN REGARDING THE
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE ZIMBABWEAN QUESTION AND I
TRUST THAT ALL CONCERNED AND PARTICULARLY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL GIVE EVERY SUPPORT FOR ITS
SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION TO AVOID ANY FURTHER BLOODSHED
AND THE ESCALATION OF HOSTILITY TO THE DISTRESS OF HUMANITY.
UPON LEARNING OF THIS IMPORTANT DECISION ON MONDAY THE
SIXTH WHEN I HAD THE OCCASION TO RECEIVE THE CREDENTIALS OF THE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBERIA I PUBLICLY WELCOMED THE DECISION
FOR AS I UNDERSTAND IT PROVIDES FOR BRITAIN TO DRAW UP A NEW
CONSTITUTION FOR THE TERRITORY AND TO SUPERVISE FRESH ELECTIONS
TO BE ATTENDED BY COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS. I ALSO NOTED THAT IT
CALLS FOR AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT TO BE ARRANGED BY BRITAIN WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A
CEASE FIRE AND THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS. I STATED FURTHER THAT THE
COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT REALIZING THE DEFECTIVE CHARACTER OF THE
PRESENT ZIMBABWE RHODESIA CONSTITUTION, RECOGNIZED THE
CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BRITAIN TO GRANT LEGAL INDEP-
ENDENCE TO THAT COUNTRY ON THE BASIS OF MAJORITY RULE FOR SUCH
A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION WILL OF COURSE INCLUDE SAFEGUARDS FOR
THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY. IT IS THEREFORE MY FERVENT HOPE THAT THIS
MATTER WILL BE TIMELY RESOLVED IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE IN AFRICA
AND OUR ONE WORLD.

WITH RENEWED SENTIMENTS OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM.
WR TOLBERT JR UNQUOTE
ENDS.

2. PLEASE CONVEY THE PRIME MINISTER'S WARM THANKS TO THE
PRESIDENT FOR HIS MESSAGE, WHICH CROSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OWN MESSAGE OF 14 AUGUST TO HIM (OUR TEL NO 78). YOU SHOULD SAY
THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR HIS SUPPORT, AND FOR
FACT THE PRESIDENT TOOK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THIS PUBLICLY
CARRINGTON

FILES

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RHOD.D.

OADS

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LEGAL ADVS (MR. FREELAND)
(MR. FIFOOT)

ECON D

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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

ADDITIONAL DISTN.
RHODESIA POLICY

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