

CONFIDENTIAL

CYPHER

FM CANBERRA 270525Z JUN 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 356 OF 27 JUNE 1979

AND TO IMMEDIATE TOKYO

MIPT AND FCO TELNO 242

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER: PROPOSED PASSAGE ON RHODESIA IN DRAFT
JOINT STATEMENT

1. MR FRASER WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE FIRST SUGGESTION IN FCO TUR MAINLY
BECAUSE SO BRIEF A REFERENCE MIGHT LOOK SUSPICIOUS TO THE PRESS WHO
WOULD THEN SEEK, EVEN MORE ASSIDUOUSLY, FOR SIGNS OF DISAGREEMENT
(OR AGREEMENT) BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS.

2. MR FRASER HAS HIMSELF LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE ALTERNATIVE WORDING
PROPOSED. WE ARE TOLD THAT HE DOES NOT FEEL HE CAN ACCEPT OUR BOTH
OMITTING REFERENCE TO REGIONAL SUPPORT AND QUALIFYING (IE ''WIDEST
POSSIBLE'') COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT. HE HOPES WE CAN ACCEPT THE FORMS
OF WORDS IN THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF MIPT.

3. SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS STRESS THAT AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED
THAT SHE MIGHT BE SEEN BY AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH OPPONENTS (EG NIGERIA
AND ZAMBIA) OF A SETTLEMENT WITH MUZOREWA AS HAVING ACQUIESCED IN A
JOINT STATEMENT (CONTAINING THE PHRASE ''WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN
THE COMMONWEALTH'') WHICH WOULD ALLOW A SETTLEMENT WITH MUZOREWA

WITHOUT FULL SUPPORT FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES INVOLVED. OFFICIALS FURTHER OBSERVE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSED FORM OF WORDS IS AMBIVALENT ENOUGH FOR AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SPOKESMAN TO INTERPRET AS THEY WISH. THE AUSTRALIANS COULD INTERPRET ''COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT'' AS MEANING THE SUPPORT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. WE COULD INTERPRET IT AS MEANING THE MAXIMUM COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SECURE.

4. MY OWN SUGGESTION WOULD BE THAT, WHEN THIS IS DISCUSSED BETWEEN DELEGATIONS, WE SHOULD TRY AGAIN FOR ''WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT BOTH FROM THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'' WHICH BY THE SAME TOKEN, SHOULD BE WIDE ENOUGH FOR AUSTRALIAN INTERPRETATION AND DOES NOT MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN DEGREES OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH AND OTHERS. BUT I FEAR WE SHALL HAVE TROUBLES OVER THIS. AN ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE: ''TO WORK WITH THE COMMONWEALTH AND OTHERS TOWARDS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.''

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