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Prime Minister

17 May 1979
by
17/5

FROM THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT BOYD, C.H.

PERSONAL

My dear Margaret.

I sent you a formal letter yesterday to accompany our Report on the Rhodesian elections. May I now send you a more personal one which of course needs no acknowledgement.

Our mission as you know was confined to observing the elections and our Report did not include any recommendations as to what Government action should follow it.

I realize only too well the problems and hurdles involved and the pressures to which you will be subject.

I feel I must make it clear that the visit has convinced me of the crucial importance of an early and favourable gesture to the Muzorawe government.

A wise European said to me in Salisbury that while a white government in Rhodesia with all its apparatus of inherited authority could continue in office even if unsuccessful, a black one would not be tolerated by black people for more than a month or two unless it was successful. He had in mind that success for Muzorawe meant first and foremost recognition by Great Britain.

I will of course help you and Peter in every way I can but I feel very strongly that I should emphasize this point to you.

Yours ever
Alan

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.

Please let Peter Cunningham see me