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TO SEND TELEGRAMS - CONSULT TELEPHONE
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OPS

Subject copy filed on Rhodesia
(P+9) 'Situation'

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 1144/79T

Nov 16 05 44

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(PRIORITY)

ETATPRIORITE

THE RIGHT HONORABLE MARGARET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1

MADAM PRIME MINISTER COLON THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF
2ND NOVEMBER ELABORATING ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSITIONAL
OR PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD IN ZIMBABWE AS PROPOSED BY
YOUR GOVERNMENT AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS STOP WE ARE
HOWEVER GRAVELY CONCERNED THAT THE INSISTENCE OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT ON FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS
AS ADVANCED MIGHT JEOPARDIZE WHAT IS PERHAPS THE LAST
OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ZIMBABWE
PROBLEM STOP I AM INFORMED THAT IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE
AND ACCOMMODATION CMA THE COLEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT ARE NOW PROPOSING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF FOUR
MONTHS CMA THE INCLUSION OF THE ELECTION COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE COMMONWEALTH CMA THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CEASEFIRE
COMMISSION CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PATRIOTIC

FRONT CMA THE INTERNAL REGIME AND THE COMMONWEALTH CMA
A VOTING PERIOD OF TWO DAYS AND EQUAL TREATMENT
AND STATUS FOR ALL CONTENDING LEADERS STOP AS THE PROPSAL FOR A
BRITISH GOVERNOR WITH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS HAS
NOW BEEN ACCEPTED CMA IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE ELECTION COUNCIL AND CEASEFIRE COMMISSION WOULD GENERALLY
FALL UNDER LTHE GOVERNORS JURISDICTION THUS ENSURING
BRITAINS FULL AUTHOURITY OVER THE TERRITORY UNTIL THE ATTAINMENT
OF INDEPENCE STOP AS THESE PROPOSALS IN MY VIEW DO NOT
SEEM INCONSISTENT AND UNREASONABLE CMA I AGAIN URGE YOUR
GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE FLEXIBILITY AND AN ATTITUDE
OF ACCOMMODATION BY GIVING SEROUS CTNSIDERATION TO THESE
NEW PROPOSALS SO THAT AGREEMENT MAY BE REACHED ON THE CRUCIAL
ISSUES RELATING TO THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD STOP I DO TRUST
THAT I CAN REPLY ON THE ASSURANCE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL
DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL
TALKS LEAD TO AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE
FORMULA FOR THE INDEPENCE OF ZIMBABWE CMA A FORMULA
WHICH SERVES THE SUPREME INTEREST OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE
AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND PROGRESS
ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA STOP WITH RENEWED ASSUANCES OF
MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM SINCERELY

W R TOLBERT JR+

PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ORANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY