



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

6 December 1979

Secretary of State

for [unclear] 2/1/81

Dear Michael,

Rhodesia

The Prime Minister has agreed to see General Walls and Mr Flower of the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation at 12.30 pm. Sir A Duff will attend and will be available to give an oral briefing from 12.15 pm.

The meeting with the Prime Minister will be of very great importance in securing the continuing support of General Walls for a settlement on the lines we are proposing. General Walls regards himself, with some justification, as having been largely responsible for bringing the white community along so far - and of course the members of the security forces in particular. But the whites are getting edgy, and General Walls is at present under pressure both within Rhodesia (where he is being attacked by Mr Ian Smith and others for going along with our proposals), and from the South Africans. He is worried, and needs reassurance that he has done the right thing and has not misled his compatriots. He needs in particular reassurance on the following points:

- a. that the process leading to independence will be irreversible. He will be looking for an assurance from the Prime Minister that once authority has been handed over to a British Governor and the process of elections has been set in train, there will be no question of Britain reimposing sanctions if actions by the Patriotic Front render it impossible for an election with their participation to be held. The Prime Minister will wish to assure General Walls that sanctions will be lifted on the Governor's arrival and that we have no intention of re-imposing them. Nor would we withhold independence if - for example because of intimidation - there was a low turn-out in the elections. Independence will be granted as soon as the elections have been held.
- b. The Rhodesian security forces will not be disadvantaged. General Walls has made it clear throughout his negotiations with us that he is extremely concerned about the extent of intimidation by the Patriotic

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Front during the election campaign. He does not believe that a ceasefire will be observed by the Patriotic Front forces generally. He regards it as essential, therefore, that the Rhodesian forces should be able to carry out a normal pattern of activity, including patrolling, under the authority of the Governor. The Prime Minister will wish to reassure him that his forces will not be required to stop patrolling. But, in the Rhodesian interest in terms of attracting international recognition, as well as in our joint interest, it will be important that military activity should be carried out with all possible circumspection and full regard for the political consequences. No cross-border operations should be carried out in this period unless it is clear to both the Governor and General Walls that a limited operation is essential.

- c. South African Assistance. All the equipment and supplies of the Rhodesian armed forces are drawn from South Africa. A significant number of South African personnel are serving in the Rhodesian forces. In addition Mr P W Botha has recently revealed the presence of South African units in Rhodesia. Our position is that we shall not be asking the South Africans to withdraw (or cease supplying) equipment or personnel within the Rhodesian armed forces. But Lord Carrington has explained to Mr P W Botha that it will be essential that no identifiable South African army units should be in Rhodesia under a British Governor. We do not think there is any need for the Prime Minister to raise this subject, but General Walls may mention it himself.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary