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Rhodesia P.A  
J.M.  
1978

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

POINTS ARISING FROM A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND  
THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY ON TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 1979

Rhodesia

Lord Carrington told the Prime Minister that the FCO were considering ways in which the wording of the 1979 Rhodesian Constitution could be changed, for presentational reasons vis a vis the Africans, without affecting the substance. The Prime Minister argued strongly against meddling with the wording of the Constitution for purely presentational reasons. She thought that changes should be confined to those substantive amendments which were necessary to remedy the Constitution's defects and that the wording of the rest of the Constitution should be left alone. After some discussion, Lord Carrington accepted this.

It was agreed that Mr. Peter Blaker would accompany Sir Anthony Duff to Salisbury at the end of August; and that Lord Harlech should visit the Front Line Presidents and the Patriotic Front at the same time. Lord Carrington suggested, and the Prime Minister agreed, that Lord Harlech should also visit the United States and brief Senator Kennedy among others.

(It was clear from the discussion that the Prime Minister and Lord Carrington are approaching the forthcoming Constitutional Conference in rather different ways. The Prime Minister wishes to do everything possible to enable the Conference to succeed and to bring about agreement on the Constitution: Lord Carrington regards such agreement as virtually inconceivable and therefore tends to regard the Conference more as a means of enabling the British Government to get off the Rhodesia hook).

J.M.

15 August 1979