

Subject
T 918/79T

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 918/79T

THE STATE HOUSE,
DAR ES SALAAM,
TANZANIA.

31st August 1979

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

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Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Thank you for your message which I received today and found reassuring. I look forward to discussing these matters further with you in London on 14th September. There are, however, two important points which I would like to leave with you while I am in Havana.

First, I do accept and understand your desire to get the maximum amount of agreement from the parties. It will very greatly ease the decolonising process. However, I hope that you will go ahead with decolonising on the constitutional basis you have been outlining (and which we agreed at Lusaka) regardless of disagreement expressed by one side or the other. If it is perfectly clear that no one will be allowed to exercise a veto on democratic decolonisation, that will in itself assist in getting agreement.

Secondly, you mentioned the statement issued in Dar es Salaam by the Patriotic Front. I do not myself think it is the entire rejection it seems to you, although I agree that it was not a constructive approach. However, this only reinforces what I have just said, for you may be confident that I shall back up a British assertion of its authority along the lines we have been discussing. It is impossible for anyone to force either side to agree to anything; what we can do is make it very clear to them that their failure to do so, and to cooperate in the implementation of a democratic constitutional process, will be - in your words - very expensive to them.

At Havana I expect to meet the Patriotic Front Leaders. I shall be making this Tanzanian stand very clear to them. I shall be telling them that we are determined to back up the transfer of power on the basis of a Constitution which is recognisably democratic, and that we shall oppose any attempt by them or anyone else to frustrate such a political solution.

They would get no further help from us if they were trying to upset such decolonisation.

Of course I cannot speak on behalf of my colleagues in the other Front Line States. However, President Kaunda and President Seretse Khama were in Lusaka; I see no reason why they should take a different line. Nor do I anticipate a different approach from President Machel, with whom I will be discussing these matters in Havana - as I hope to do with President Neto also.

If you are prepared to assume the necessary authority to finalise the process of decolonisation on the basis of the Lusaka Agreement I see no reason why you should not expect full support from us.

I send my personal good wishes to you.

Yours sincerely,

Julius K. Nyerere