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FORTY-SECOND PLENARY SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

LANCASTER HOUSE

LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the Forty-Second
Plenary Session of the Conference, Friday 7 December
1979.

Lancaster House

7 December 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation:

Sir A Duff (in the Chair)

Mr D M Day

Gen M Farndale

Gen J Acland

Mr R W Renwick

Mr N M Fenn

Mr R Jackling

Col C Dunphie

Mr P J Barlow

Mr B Watkins

Mrs A J Phillips

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Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Dr S C Mundawarara

AVM H Hawkins

Mr D Zamchiya

Gen P Walls

Mr P Allum

Mr K Flower

Mr P Claypole

Mr A R McMillan

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Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo

Mr R G Mugabe

Mr J Chinamano

Gen J Tongogara

Mr T G Silundika

Mr E Kadungure

Mr A M Chambati

Dr H Ushewokunze

Mr W Musarurwa

Mr E Zvobgo

Mr D Dabengwa

Mr S Mubako

Mr R Austin

Mr W Kamba

Mr L Mafela

Mr R Manyika

Miss E Siziba

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session commenced at 11.25.

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Conference that the Government would shortly be announcing in the House of Commons that the Governor-Designate for Rhodesia was Lord Soames. This had been foreshadowed in the press, but was now an official announcement.

The Chairman recalled that at the 41st Plenary Session he had asked the other two delegations to give the numbers of their forces. It had been agreed, because each delegation found it difficult to speak first, that it would be acceptable to write the numbers down and hand them to the Chair. He asked whether these figures could now be revealed.

DR MUNDAWARARA said that his delegation did not believe that their force levels were relevant to this exercise, as the Rhodesian forces would not be required to assemble, but would be monitored from their existing bases. In order to facilitate progress at the Conference, he was nevertheless prepared to give them in confidence to the Chairman, on the understanding that they would not be disclosed to anybody. The war was still going on. He would not ask the Patriotic Front to disclose their figures either.

THE CHAIRMAN remarked that this position was not entirely satisfactory. In reply to a question from him, DR MUNDAWARARA said that the figures would be handed over during the course of the day. THE CHAIRMAN then asked whether Mr Mugabe or Mr Nkomo could communicate their force levels.

/MR MUGABE