



Rhodesia B
cc 720

C.F.
To note

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

original in G.R.

14 November 1979

Dear Mr. Southall,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November in which you were kind enough to express your general appreciation of our efforts to reach a settlement over Rhodesia and made some suggestions concerning the arrangements for holding elections and bringing Rhodesia to independence.

In proposing that Rhodesia should return to legality as part of Her Majesty's dominions for the period leading up to the elections, we believe we have taken a step that required some courage. The whole basis of our approach has been that the Government is prepared to accept that it is Britain's responsibility, and Britain's alone, to bring Rhodesia to independence on the basis of genuine majority rule.

In carrying out this responsibility, I think it essential that we should try to make arrangements for putting it into effect which are simple, feasible and rapid. I see the attractions of integration of the forces, and of assembling a military force to police the ceasefire: but if we could find a basis for agreement at Lancaster House on these elements (and I do not think we could), putting them into effect would be a long and extraordinarily difficult process. Just how difficult was shown by the problems which the Anglo-American proposals encountered.

/However,

However, when we come to discuss the ceasefire arrangements, we may be able to propose that there should be a small commission at the disposal of the Governor to monitor breaches of the ceasefire. If such a proposal proved acceptable, we would ask a number of Commonwealth countries if they could make contingents available for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Ragant White

Donald Southall, Esq.