

f.a.  
Renwick

Mr Renwick

## MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

At this morning's meeting with the Patriotic Front (at which the LPS, you and I were also present on our side) Nkomo began by acknowledging that Lord Carrington's statement yesterday was evidence that the British had moved on a number of points. Lord Carrington seemed to wish to reach agreement by movement on both sides, and this was a good thing. But it would be wrong to leave things undone (he mentioned the Rhodesian Air Force) and said that our proposals still needed to be "knocked into shape". The only way this could be done would be by sitting down with the Rhodesian side and getting down to details on maps.

Lord Carrington said that he knew that the Patriotic Front had difficulties, and we had tried to meet these. We could, for example, accept 1,000 monitors. He mentioned other concessions we had made. Assembly of the Patriotic Front forces was however crucial, as the start of a two-way traffic. He recognised that there was distrust on both sides, but reciprocal disengagement depended on the success of the assembly of the Patriotic Front forces. The Salisbury forces would be monitored from their bases. Nkomo said that he hoped that we were not talking about the Rhodesians' operational bases. Mugabe asked why the Rhodesians should not withdraw to barracks - that was the only possible meaning of movement on both sides. If the Rhodesian forces stayed in their operational areas, so would the Patriotic Front. Lord Carrington clearly had no notion about how the Patriotic Front forces were organised. Mr Nkomo said that all this needed to be discussed between them and the Salisbury people.

Lord Carrington said that as far as we were concerned, there was nothing more to discuss. Our wording had been carefully chosen. He hoped that the Patriotic Front could tell him tomorrow whether they could accept our proposals or not. In the meantime, we could give them any clarification they needed. We were now at the end of the road. Nkomo asked Lord Carrington not to talk about final discussions; the Patriotic Front were still a long way from the end of the road. Mugabe asked whether what we were saying was that the Rhodesians had refused to withdraw to their barracks. He was not going to stand by while his forces were pushed into "slaughter points". Mr Renwick explained that the Rhodesian forces, who would disengage to allow assembly, were hardly likely to slaughter the Patriotic Front forces before the eyes of the monitors. Mugabe argued that the Rhodesians were rebels, capable of anything, and that the monitors were inadequate. Nkomo said that we needed to establish where the Patriotic Front and Rhodesian operational bases were. If the Rhodesian forces stayed in theirs, so would the Patriotic Front.

/Lord Carrington



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Lord Carrington insisted that the Patriotic Front should tell him tomorrow night whether they accepted our proposals or not. Both Nkomo and Mugabe said that they would not reply tomorrow, but would re-pose their questions about assembly points and barracks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'G. G. H. Walden', is written in a cursive style across the middle of the page.

(G G H Walden)

29 November 1979

cc:- PS  
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