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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 130 B/RT

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FM F C O 301105Z OCT 79

TO IMMEDIATE MAPUTO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 134 OF 30 OCTOBER 1979.

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND LUANDA.

MY TELNO 351 TO DAR ES SALAAM : RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MACHEL:-

1. RICHARD LUCE HAS GIVEN ME AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MR CHISSANO ON 22 OCTOBER ABOUT RHODESIA AND OUR PROPOSALS FOR THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD.
2. WE NOW HAVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS. THEY QUESTION THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE PLAN WE HAVE PUT FORWARD, NAMELY THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT AT LUSAKS, ELECTIONS SHOULD BE SUPERVISED UNDER BRITISH AUTHORITY, WITH COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS PRESENT.
3. I VERY MUCH AGREE WITH THE VIEW MR CHISSANO PUT TO MR LUCE THAT CONDITIONS SHOULD BE CREATED WHICH WILL ENABLE ALL THOSE COMPETING FOR POWER TO HAVE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY OF SECURING IT THROUGH FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING TO ARRANGE. MY GOVERNMENT REGARD IT AS BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE, TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FAIR AS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. WE ARE READY TO CARRY OUT TO THE FULL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE DE-COLONISING POWER, AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS SO OFTEN URGED US TO DO. BUT WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GO WELL BEYOND THAT AGREEMENT OR WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO EXERCISE OUR AUTHORITY. IT IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL HAVE TO ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RHODESIA IN THIS PERIOD.
4. AS TO THE LENGTH OF THIS PERIOD, I KNOW THAT YOU YOURSELF HAVE SAID TO MR PAPADOPOULOS THAT IT SHOULD BE AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE. I AGREE. THE LONGER THE INTERIM PERIOD LASTS, THE GREATER THE RISKS OF A BREAKDOWN OF THE CEASE-FIRE. OUR CONCERN IS THAT THE

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PEOPLE OF RHODESIA MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES. WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER POWER TO ANY PARTY WHICH HAS NOT WON IT THROUGH ELECTIONS.

5. WHAT WE MUST SEEK IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES OF THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM PERIOD - NAMELY THE RE-ASSERTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY, A GOVERNOR WITH FULL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXERTING DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS. THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD INVOLVE BISHOP MUZOREWA AND HIS MINISTERS RELINQUISHING POWER TO ENABLE NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS, WHICH INVOLVE VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR HIM, IN THE INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT UNLIKE SOME PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PUT THESE PLANS INTO EFFECT. IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PROCEED TO THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH MUST CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE VERY MUCH EASIER TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THAT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF PRIOR AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF BRITISH AUTHORITY AND OUR GENERAL PROPOSALS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD.

6. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL ACCEPT THE SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS. IN THAT EVENT WE SHALL HAVE WITHIN OUR GRASP A SOLUTION WHICH WILL BRING PEACE TO RHODESIA AND TO MOZAMBIQUE.

CARRINGTON

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