



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 May 1979

RHODESIA

The Prime Minister has seen and considered Sir John Hunt's minute (A09470) of 4 May about Rhodesia. The Prime Minister has made the following comments:-

- (i) The Prime Minister has noted the statement, in paragraph 4, that the Third World would be likely to follow the lead of the African governments in reacting negatively to the Rhodesian elections. The Prime Minister has commented that this might be less likely if the UK were to give the Third World a firm lead in the other direction.
- (ii) The Prime Minister has commented on paragraph 5 of the minute that she would be glad to know of another country in Africa which has a one man/one vote system and in which every adult is allowed to cast his vote for one of four different political parties.
- (iii) On paragraph 6(i), the Prime Minister has commented that black Africa will react for a time to recognition of the Rhodesian regime but Zambia will still use the railway through Rhodesia.
- (iv) On the question of the disruption of plans for The Queen's State Visit and the CHGM (paragraph 6(ii)), the Prime Minister has commented: "They /i.e. the Africans/ will do the disrupting".
- (v) On paragraph 6(iii), the Prime Minister has asked how much aid, in total, the UK provides for Zambia. I should be grateful for early advice.
- (vi) On the reference to the United Nations in paragraph 6(iv), the Prime Minister has commented that the UN have gone back on their agreements over Namibia.

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- (vii) On the last sentence of paragraph 6, the Prime Minister has expressed agreement with Sir John Hunt's view that precipitate action could risk adverse consequences without achieving the main objective. The Prime Minister has added, however, that there should be no doubt about what the British Government intends to do: the only question is how and when.

The Prime Minister has made the general comment on Sir John Hunt's minute that she agrees that care is needed; but that a little courage is necessary, too.

B. B. CARTLEDGE

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