



CONFIDENTIAL

MRS THATCHER

DISCUSSION ON RHODESIA IN THE 1922 COMMITTEE : 4 MARCH

1. Introduced by Winston Churchill.
Expressed concern about what appeared to be the Party's policy of going along with the Labour Government on Rhodesia.
Advocated - resistance to Soviet Union at all costs and a transition period to majority rule by say 1980.
2. Bernard Braine warned against immense political and practical difficulties of any form of British military aid to Rhodesia. Urged great caution on Front Bench spokesmen in any policy proposals they made, otherwise the Tory Party would tear itself apart.
3. Patrick Wall believed that an invasion of Rhodesia was inevitable. He urged a break with the Labour Government on Rhodesia and the offer of British military aid to Zambia, Zaire and South Africa - not Rhodesia.
4. Kenneth Baker urged the lifting of the debate beyond Rhodesia to Soviet expansion in Africa as a whole.
5. Frederick Bennett said that large-scale military intervention in Rhodesia by Britain was impractical. Our efforts should be directed towards trying to create maximum breathing space for further Smith/Nkomo negotiations

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6. Cyril Townsend said that we should keep in line with other Commonwealth countries on policy towards Mozambique and safeguard our relations with 'black' Africa.

7. Richard Luce warned against falling into the Soviet trap of identifying ourselves with the white Governments in Southern Africa. Called for transfer to majority rule in Rhodesia within weeks or months.

8. Julian Amery supported a period of transition to majority rule in Rhodesia and a clear multi-racial policy towards Africa as a whole directed against Soviet aggrandisement.

9. Ian Lloyd did not discount the possibility of Britain using force, but said that our whole policy should be directed towards achieving peaceful but political change to multi-racialism in Southern Africa.

10. Maurice Macmillan said that Soviet policy in Southern Africa should be regarded as part of their world-wide imperialism.

11. John Farr was concerned about the lack of energy and independence of the Party's stance on Southern Africa.



12. Geoffrey Finsberg did not think our Party would stand for Britain giving aid to Mozambique.

13. Peter Blaker advocated not giving aid to Mozambique unless Mozambique gave guarantees against aggression, ~~or being used for aggression~~ against Rhodesia.

14. Geoffrey Rippon advocated showing a willingness by Britain to give arms to any country in Southern Africa for external defence. Against aid to Mozambique.

15. Peter Tapsell stressed the importance of not getting identified wholly with white regimes. Urged greater United States involvement.

LONDON

John Stanley