

T 63 B/80

THE STATE HOUSE,
DAR ES SALAAM,
TANZANIA.

OPS Subject on
Rhodesia Pt 17
Subnote

24th March 1980

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.
U.K.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T63B/80

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

This is the very last letter I expect to write to you about Rhodesia. But after our long discussions in Lusaka, and then in London, it seems inappropriate to close this file without marking the clear - and I hope you agree - successful completion on 18th April 1980 of the task of transferring power to the majority of the people of Zimbabwe.

The British and Tanzanian Governments have had many and bitter arguments over this subject since Tanganyika became independent in December 1961. In July last year you and I, together with other Commonwealth leaders, reached an accord in Lusaka; but still there were disagreements between us before the elections took place at the end of February. In retrospect, perhaps all this disagreement was inevitable given the different historical and political experiences of our two nations. Certainly Tanzania found itself arguing just as fiercely whichever political Party was in power in Britain!

But now the matter is settled. Whatever we think of their choice, we all agree that the decision of the people of Zimbabwe is unmistakeable. And Prime Minister Mugabe's decision to form a broad-based unity Government despite the ZANU(PF) electoral victory has created an unparalleled opportunity for all groups to merge their past bitterness into the common struggle to rebuild the country. I can assure you that Tanzania, for its part, will do whatever it can to back up Mr. Mugabe's endeavours in this respect.

Internationally I hope that the same spirit will prevail. On that basis I anticipate that our two countries will be able to maintain and even extend the friendship and cooperation which has always marked our bilateral relations. I therefore look forward with pleasure to future contact between our two peoples, and in particular to the possibility of meeting you again when our various business or travels makes this practicable.

In the meantime I send you my warm personal good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Julius K. Nyerere