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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 September 1979

Dear Patrick,

Thank you very much for your letter from the United States about Rhodesia. I am grateful for your kind words about the Lusaka agreement, and for your frankness in setting out your anxieties.

We are now engaged in the Constitutional Conference. We have put forward proposals which I believe are fair and reasonable and fully compatible with the basis on which we have granted independence in other cases. They should be acceptable to anyone who wants a reasonable agreement. We must make a determined effort to see if it is possible to bring about an end to - or a de-escalation of - the war, which is the main factor in causing many members of the white community to leave. We must also do all we can to make sure that the newly independent country wins as much international acceptance as possible. We have made it clear that we will not allow any party to exercise a veto over what we regard as a reasonable settlement. I hope that you will feel able to support this approach.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret

Patrick Wall, Esq., M.C., V.R.D., M.P.

J.S.