

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Rhodesia VLB
cc HO D/T
LCO CO
HMT
MOD
LPO
LPSO

29 May 1979

Rhodesia

Thank you for your letter of 25 May about Lord Harlech's mission to Southern Africa.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and, with one important exception, is content with the arrangements envisaged for Lord Harlech's consultations. The Prime Minister agrees that Lord Harlech should have talks with President Kaunda, President Nyerere, President Machel, Sir Seretse Khama and General Obasanjo. The Prime Minister does not, however, consider that Lord Harlech should meet the co-leaders of the Patriotic Front. The Prime Minister has commented that she has never done business with terrorists until they become Prime Ministers.

The arrangements foreshadowed in your letter for the announcement of Lord Harlech's mission and for handling publicity have, of course, now been overtaken by the leak of his appointment which occurred over the weekend.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of OD and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

B. G. CARTLEDGE

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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