

OPS

Subject on Rhodesia Sit A-14



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 22/80

4 February 1980

PM seen Tel.  
Cape Town to FCO  
86 S. 2. 80.

Dear Prime Minister

The South African Government is gravely perturbed at the explosively high incidence of deliberate intimidation and other breaches of the Cease-fire Agreement which are taking place daily in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. As you will be aware from reports submitted by Lord Soames, the Cease-fire Commission has confirmed up to 29 January 1980, 78 breaches of the cease-fire. Of these breaches, the majority had been committed by ZANLA personnel and had occurred within the ZANLA area of operations. Moreover, the ZANLA commander, who was present at all meetings of the Commission, had accepted the findings of the Commission. In his statement to the Security Council on 1 February 1980, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom indicated that security had been seriously threatened by thousands of ZANLA forces that had not assembled and had remained at large in the country, including very many who had crossed the border illegally.

These conflict-provoking violations of the cease-fire continue unabated and over the weekend a civilian bus which, according to press reports, carried supporters of the UANC, was attacked with rockets, killing 16 passengers and wounding numerous others, two of whom have since died.

My Government appeals to your Government to take urgent measures to prevent the perpetrators from foisting their will on the people and from establishing a Marxist regime in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. Peace in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia can only be achieved if the people are allowed to express their wishes during the election free from intimidation and fear. My Government fears that a continuation of the spate of terrorism is destroying the prospect of a democratic government being elected and is increasing the chance of the emergence of an Afghanistan situation.

With sincere regards

P.W. BOTHA

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP  
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