

SUBJECTS

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL NO. ....

T 115/79

11TH OCTOBER, 1979.

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

WE HAVE AS YOU KNOW FOLLOWED WITH THE KEENEST INTEREST THE PROGRESS SO FAR MADE IN THE ONGOING CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON ZIMBABWE. WE APPRECIATE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS AT LANCASTER HOUSE HAVE REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE AND THAT THE CONFERENCE IS NOW VERY DELICATELY POISED.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE ADVANCED MAY NOT FULLY SATISFY ALL THE PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION, CONDITIONAL UPON AGREEMENT BEING REACHED ON THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE WOULD THEREFORE URGE THAT UNLESS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS NO AGREEMENT SHOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN REACHED ON THE CONSTITUTION.

TRUSTING THAT THIS PROPOSAL WILL ASSIST IN PREVENTING A BREAKDOWN OF THE CONFERENCE, I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY GREAT ESTEEM AND HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

YOURS SINCERELY,

(SHEHU SHAGARI)  
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA.

THE RT. HON. MRS. MARGARET THATCHER,  
PRIME MINISTER,  
10 DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON.