

GRS 740

Subject on Rhodesia: Situation: PT8

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FM F.C.O. 301105Z OCT 79

TO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 888 OF 30 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND CANBERRA.

MY TEL NO 351 TO DAR ES SALAAM: RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA:-

DEAR KENNETH,

THANK YOU FOR TALKING SO FULLY TO RICHARD LUCE ON 20 OCTOBER AND FOR YOUR SUBSEQUENT LETTER ABOUT THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE WHICH REACHED ME ON 27 OCTOBER.

2. I AGREE WITH MOST OF THE POINTS YOU MAKE IN YOUR LETTER AND IN PARTICULAR THAT WE ARE CLOSER NOW TO A SOLUTION THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN BEFORE. THERE ARE ONE OR TWO POINTS ON WHICH WE TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW. THESE MAY NOT BE IMPORTANT IN RELATION TO THE AREA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN US, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN WHY.

3. YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT TWO MONTHS MAY NOT BE LONG ENOUGH TO ARRANGE FOR THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THE PARTIES WILL NEED MORE THAN TWO MONTHS TO STATE THEIR CASE TO THE ELECTORATE, AND THIS IS WHAT IS ESSENTIAL. IT IS BRITAIN WHICH WILL HAVE TO TAKE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RHODESIA IN THIS PERIOD. WE WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO DO SO UNDER CONDITIONS AND FOR A PERIOD IN WHICH WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS NOT A COMPLICATED TRANSITIONAL STRUCTURE, WHICH WOULD RENDER IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY, BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO BE ENABLED TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES, WHAT GOVERNMENT THEY WANT IN FAIR ELECTIONS. THE LONGER THE INTERIM PERIOD LASTS BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES, THE GREATER WILL BE THE RISK OF A BREAK-DOWN OF THE CEASE-FIRE. IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE'S INTERESTS AND IN THOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THAT OPPORTUNITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER POWER TO ANY PARTY WHICH HAS NOT WON IT THROUGH FAIR ELECTIONS.

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4. THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE MUCH LONGER THEN THE SIX MONTHS YOU ENVISAGE. THIS WOULD BE TOO LONG TO WAIT TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM WHICH IS OF EXTREME AND GROWING URGENCY. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE, AS IT HAS BEEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES, TO CARRY OUT A FAIR ELECTION WITHOUT PRIOR REGISTRATION, PROVIDED THERE ARE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST DOUBLE VOTING AND OTHER MAL-PRACTICES.

5. I ENTIRELY AGREE THAT AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE MUST BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY AGREEMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE. THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THIS WILL BE THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES TO OBSERVE THE CEASE-FIRE AND TO STAND BY THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS, WHATEVER IT MAY BE. I DO NOT SHARE YOUR INTERPRETATION THAT AT LUSAKA THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE. BUT WHEN WE REACH THAT STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WE SHALL BE READY TO ARRANGE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN THE MILITARY COMMANDERS ON BOTH SIDES; AND THIS MUST INCLUDE EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS OBSERVANCE.

6. WHAT WE MUST SEEK IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES OF THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM PERIOD - NAMELY THE RE-ASSERTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY, A GOVERNOR WILL FULL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXERTING DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS. THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD INVOLVE MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY BISHOP MUZOREWA. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE AGREED TO RELINQUISH POWER TO ENABLE NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. THIS HAS INVOLVED VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR HIM, IN THE INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT UNLIKE SOME PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PUT THESE PLANS INTO EFFECT. IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PROCEED TO THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH MUST CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE VERY MUCH EASIER TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THAT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF PRIOR AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF BRITISH AUTHORITY AND OUR GENERAL PROPOSALS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD.

7. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL ACCEPT THE SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS. IN THAT EVENT A SOLUTION WILL BE WITHIN OUR GRASP. IN VIEW OF ALL THIS WOULD MEAN FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND FOR ZAMBIA, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TOO OF THE NEED FOR COMPROMISE.

CARRINGTON.

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