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CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY GABORONE 201600Z

FM FCO 211426Z NOV 79

TO FLASH LUSAKA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 958 OF 20 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS (FOR PS TO S OF S) WASHINGTON

DAR ES SALAAM MAPUTO GABORONE PRIORITY LUANDA UKMIS NEW YORK

PRETORIA LAGOS MIRIMBA SALISBURY

MIPT: RHODESIA.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER:

'DEAR KENNETH

AS YOU KNOW, I HAD ALREADY ADDRESSED A MESSAGE TO YOU ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEFORE NEWS REACHED ME ABOUT THE RECENT EVENTS. THESE I KNOW HAVE CAUSED YOU MUCH DISTRESS.

I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN WHICH YOU FEEL AT THE ATTACKS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON YOUR TERRITORY AND THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH THEY HAVE PLACED YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE. AS I MADE CLEAR TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE IN LONDON, IT IS MY EARNEST DESIRE TO SEE THAT ALL SUCH INCIDENTS COME TO AN END AND THAT NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE RESTORED BETWEEN RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LET ME ASSURE YOU, KENNETH, THAT WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO SEE THAT THIS HAPPENS AND THAT WE HAVE BEEN URGING BOTH SIDES TO SHOW RESTRAINT. BUT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SURE OF ACHIEVING OUR AIM IS TO BRING THE WAR ITSELF TO AN END. THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE STRIVING TO DO IN THIS FINAL PHASE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. PETER CARRINGTON AND IAIN GILMOUR HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR UTMOST TO IMPRESS ON BOTH THE OTHER DELEGATIONS AT LANCASTER HOUSE THE URGENT NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS QUICKLY. ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH IS UPPERMOST IN ALL OUR MINDS IN THIS IS THE NEED TO PUT AN END TO THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE DISRUPTION OF YOUR ECONOMY WHICH YOU ARE SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF THE CONFLICT IN RHODESIA. TO DO THIS, WE MUST GET AN AGREEMENT ON A CEASE-FIRE HERE IN LONDON WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO SEND OUR GOVERNOR OUT TO SALISBURY AT ONCE SO THAT HE CAN EXERT HIS AUTHORITY OVER ALL THE FORCES. WITHOUT A GOVERNOR WE HAVE NO AUTHORITY. HAVING GOT AGREEMENT ON THE POLITICAL BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF WE NOW FAILED TO GET AGREEMENT ON AN END TO THE WAR, IN THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA BUT OF ZAMBIA AS WELL.

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/I DO URGE

OPS Subject Rhodesia P710 Conference/Situation
**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T147C179T**

I DO URGE YOU TO UNDERSTAND, KENNETH, THAT WE ARE TAKING THE SITUATION VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED. AT THIS VITAL MOMENT, WE MUST ENSURE THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HERE CONCENTRATE ON WORKING WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DELAY OR INTERRUPTION TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A CEASEFIRE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. WE MUST MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE TALKS AT LANCASTER HOUSE. WE MUST GET AGREEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IF THE CHANCE IS NOT TO SLIP FROM OUR GRASP. I AM SURE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR ALL POSSIBLE HELP IN THIS. IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A WORD WITH ME ON THE TELEPHONE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ME AT ONCE.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, MARGARET.

CARRINGTON

FILES

RHODESIA D
OADS
NAD
PUSD
PLANNING STAFF
ES & SD
CCD
FRD
UND
LEGAL ADVISERS
(SIR I. SINCLAIR)
(MR FIFOOT)
ECON D
PCD
DEF D
OID

NEWS D
PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS

SIR A DUFF
LORD N G LENNOX
MISS BROWN
MR DAY
MR WILLSON
MR ASPIN

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