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EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the
Eighth Plenary Session of the
Conference, Tuesday 2 October.

Lancaster House
2 October 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Mr R Luce

Mr D M Day

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr P J Barlow

Mr R M J Lyne

Mr A M Layden

Mrs A Phillips

Mr S J Gomersall

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr R G Mugabe

Mr S V Muzenda

Mr J M Tongogara

Mr H Ushewokunze

Mr E Zvobgo

Mr S Mubako

Mr W Kamba

Mr J M Nkomo

Mr J M Chinamano

Mr J W Msika

Mr T G Silundika

Mr A M Chambah

Mr L Baron

Mr S K Sibanda

Mr W Musururwa

Miss T Siziba

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Bishop A T Muzorewa
Dr S C Mundawarara
Mr E L Bulle
Mr F Zindoga
Mr D C Mukome
Mr G B Nyandoro
Rev N Sithole
Mr L Nyemba
Chief K Ndiweni
Mr Z M Bafanah
Mr I D Smith
Mr D C Smith
Mr C Andersen
Dr J Kamusikiri
Mr G Pincus
Mr L G Smith
Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session began at 1505.

THE CHAIRMAN said that this was the first plenary meeting for some time. Since the last meeting the British delegation had been engaged in bilateral discussions with the other delegations, first in a general discussion of principles, and then in discussion by experts on the detail of the constitution. This process had ended this morning. Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, and also perhaps Bishop Muzorewa, were anxious to discuss in plenary the position that had been reached, and to point out existing areas of disagreement so that the Conference as a whole could assess the progress made.

MR MUGABE suggested that the British delegation were in the best position to report on the bilateral discussions of the past two weeks, and to give its views on where the main points of agreement and disagreement lay. THE CHAIRMAN said that it might therefore be useful to run through the various points on which differences remained, as he had done bilaterally with Mr Mugabe's and Mr Nkomo's delegation that morning.

MR NKOMO said that the Conference had been called in order to decolonise Southern Rhodesia; this was a British responsibility. The Patriotic Front had been forced to express its feelings through war, because all else had failed. It was a common aim of all those who had come to London to get the British to decolonise, although differences of approach

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