CC(79) 13 FOURTH PLENARY SESSION COPY NO: 89

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON
SEPTEMBER 1979

Summary of the proceedings of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Conference, Friday 14 September

Lancaster House
14 September 1979

PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Lord Harlech

Mr R Luce

Sir M Palliser

Sir A Duff

Mr D M Day

Mr R A C Byatt

Mr R W Renwick

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mr M J Richardson

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr R G Mugabe

Mr S V Muzenda

Mr E Z Tekere

Mr J M Tongogara

Mr H Ushewokunze

Mr J Tungamirai

Mr E Zvobgo

Mr W Kamba

Mr J M Nkomo

Mr J M Chinamano

Mr J W Msika

Mr T G Silundika

Mr John Nkomo

Mr L Baron

Mr E Mlambo

Mr C Ndlovu

Miss T Siziba

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

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 R Cronje

Mr C Andersen

Dr J Kamusikiri

Mr L G Smith

Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins

Mr D Zamchiya

Mr G Mutambanengwe

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

RESTRICTED

The Session began at 1505.

THE CHAIRMAN recalled that he had adjourned the previous day's session to enable the other delegations to study the Summary of an Independence Constitution (Conference Paper CC(79)6) which he had previously circulated. He now invited comments from the other delegations.

DR MUNDAWARARA said that Bishop Muzorewa's delegation had studied the proposals circulated by the British Government. As had already been said, the delegation felt that they had a constitution which substantially complied with the principles in the British proposals. He wished formally to table the existing constitution (subsequently circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)10). He wanted to adopt a helpful and constructive attitude to the British proposals, but was inhibited from doing so for two reasons: first, he wondered why the British Government were reluctant to accept some of the principles of the present constitution. He would like an explanation from the Chairman as to why they were thought unacceptable although they seemed to comply with the principles already laid down in the British proposals. also assumed that, if no reference had been made or amendments suggested to existing constitutional provisions, the British Government had no alternative proposals to put forward.

Secondly, his delegation was uncertain as to the meaning of some of the terms used in the British proposals, and would need further clarification before they could comment /meaningfully