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THIRTY-FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the Thirty-Fifth
Plenary Session of the Conference, Monday
19 November 1979.

Lancaster House
19 November 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Mr R Luce

Mr D M Day

Gen M Farndale

Mr P R N Fifoot

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr C D Powell

Mr R Jackling

Col A Gurdon

Mr P J Barlow

Mr R D Wilkinson

Mr R M J Lyne

Mr S J Gomersall

Mrs A J Phillips

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Dr S C Mundawarara

Dr J Kamusikiri

AVM H Hawkins

Mr D Zamchiya

Mr M A Adam

Mr P Claypole

Mr A MacMillan

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo	Mr R G Mugabe
Mr J M Chinamano	Mr E Tekere
Mr J W Msika	Gen J M Tongogara
Mr A M Chambati	Dr H Ushewokunze
Mr D Dabengwa	Mr D Mutumbuka
Mr R Mpoko	Mr J Tungamirai
Mr A Ndlovu	Mr S Mubako
Mr R Austin	Mr W Kamba
Miss E Siziba	Mr R Manyika

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session started at 11.07.

THE CHAIRMAN referred to the British paper circulated to the Conference on 16 November (CC(79)79) and asked whether either visiting delegation now wished to make a response.

MR MUGABE confirmed that his delegation wished to respond. Although they did not propose to comment in detail on the British paper, they wished to observe that it followed the pattern of previous British papers and reflected prior negotiation with the Rhodesian regime outside the Conference. His delegation rejected this type of procedure. He then tabled and read through the Patriotic Front delegation's document "Proposals on Basic Principles for a Ceasefire", subsequently circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)82.

THE CHAIRMAN then invited Dr Mundawarara to speak. DR MUNDAWARARA said that his delegation had carefully considered the British Government's proposals for the ceasefire arrangements (CC(79)79). They noted that these were phrased in general terms, as had been the case in the proposals for the new constitution and for the pre-independence arrangements. Subject to that observation, his delegation would be prepared to discuss these proposals more fully; first, however, there were a number of statements within them which required elaboration in order that they could be fully understood.

(a) in paragraph 4 of CC(79)79 it was stated that machinery would be established for the assessment and maintenance of the ceasefire. Was this the general reference to what followed later in the paper, including

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the establishment of the Ceasefire Commission and the Ceasefire Monitoring Group, or did it refer to something else?

- (b) in paragraph 9, it was stated that a Ceasefire Monitoring Group would be established. They wished to know what size of group was contemplated and the names of the Commonwealth countries which would contribute to it.
- (c) in paragraph 10, reference was made to the practical arrangements which would be necessary to avoid the risk of clashes between the existing forces. They asked whether the British Government was in a position to provide details of the arrangements they had in mind.
- (d) another salient matter upon which information was required and upon which the proposals were silent was the position which would arise in the event of a breakdown in the ceasefire. It should be made absolutely clear in the proposals that any party which was responsible for a serious breach or breakdown of the ceasefire would be proscribed and would be excluded from the election.

On receipt of this further information, his delegation would be prepared to contribute constructively to further discussion on the bringing about of a ceasefire.

THE CHAIRMAN thanked Dr Mundawarara; he said that the

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British delegation would answer these questions and comment on Mr Mugabe's and Mr Nkomo's delegation's paper in the very near future. The international community was looking to the Conference for progress and rapid conclusions. Time was moving on and a conclusion was needed within a few days. He proposed to provide answers in plenary session the following morning which would be very closely followed by bilateral discussions so that these matters could be settled as soon as possible.

MR NKOMO said that it was important to be prepared to negotiate an agreement which would work. His delegation wanted a quick agreement; however, they could not ignore the very important issues involved in the sensitive matter of a ceasefire. While his delegation was prepared to do everything possible to achieve an early agreement, this could not be at the risk of ignoring important issues raised in their document.

THE CHAIRMAN said that nothing in the Patriotic Front document would be ignored. These matters had to be discussed as quickly as possible however. He then adjourned the Conference until the following day, at a time to be agreed.

The session ended at 11.22