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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister,

I think this paper takes account
of most of the points you made
at Chequers + yesterday. Agree?

17 October 1979

Dear Michael,

RML:17/x

Yes OK

Rhodesia: Pre-Independence Period

I enclose a paper describing our proposals for the pre-independence period in Rhodesia.

Lord Carrington proposes to carry forward our discussions with the Salisbury Delegation on the basis of this paper, and to seek Bishop Muzorewa's agreement to it.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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Rhodesia: The Pre-Independence Period

1. On a date to be agreed, by an Order in Council of the Southern Rhodesia Act of 1965, executive authority in Rhodesia will be vested in a Governor who will be British.
2. There will be no Parliament in Rhodesia in the pre-election period to act as the legislative authority. This authority will therefore have to be vested formally in the Governor.
3. The Governor will be appointed by the British Government. He will have a small British staff, an Election Commissioner, a military adviser and a police adviser.
4. At the end of the Conference and before the Governor arrives, Bishop Muzorewa would return to Rhodesia and resume control of the Government. He would if necessary arrange for the new Constitution to be approved by the Rhodesian Parliament by a rapid procedure; and in any case for Parliament to be dissolved to enable new elections to be held. He would invite us to appoint a British Governor to enable elections to be held under our authority.
5. The Governor would then proceed to Rhodesia. From his arrival, he would be formally responsible for the administration of the country. (For a short period after his arrival, Bishop Muzorewa and his principal Ministers would deal with day to day business in matters which did not relate to the holding of elections and a ceasefire.) From this point Rhodesia would have returned to legality as a British dependent territory and sanctions would be lifted.
6. Bishop Muzorewa and his Ministers, and all other political leaders, would thereafter commit themselves to the election campaign. Bishop Muzorewa would not be asked to resign. The Governor would not take action to divest him of his office. But the Governor would become directly responsible for the day to day administration of the country, acting through the Permanent

/Secretaries

Secretaries, for such time as was necessary to enable elections to be held.

6. The Governor's instructions would require him to do all things necessary to secure compliance with the conditions for free elections. In particular, he would ensure that during the election campaign:-

- a) the administration of the election is scrupulously impartial as between all the political parties;
- b) peaceful political activity is freely conducted;
- c) all parties will have free and uncensored access to all the public media.

7. The Governor's Election Commissioner and supporting staff would assist him in carrying out these functions. Commonwealth observers would be present during the election.

8. The Governor would appoint an Election Council, under the chairmanship of his Election Commissioner, on which parties taking part in the election would be represented. The Council and its individual members would be able to offer advice and make representations to the Governor on any matter concerning the elections.

9. The existing civil police would be responsible for the maintenance of law and order, under the authority and supervision of the Governor and his police adviser and supporting staff.

10. There would be agreement between the opposing forces regarding a ceasefire and disengagement of their respective forces. A Ceasefire Commission under the chairmanship of the British military adviser would be established to assist with the oversight of the ceasefire on which the commanders of the opposing forces will be represented and would be answerable to the Governor.

11. The elections would be held on a date to be decided by the Governor, after consultation with the parties participating in them. Immediately thereafter the independence government would be established and Zimbabwe would become independent.