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CC(79) 34
FIFTEENTH PLENARY SESSION

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the
Fifteenth Plenary Session of the
Conference, Thursday 25 October 1979

Lancaster House
25 October 1979

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PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Sir I Gilmour Bt

Sir M Palliser

Sir J Graham

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 S J Gomersall

Mrs A J Phillips

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 I D Smith
Mr R Cronje
Mr C Andersen
Dr J Kamusikiri
Mr G Pincus
Mr L G Smith
Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins
Mr D Zamchiya
Mr S V Mutambanengwe

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo	Mr R G Mugabe
Mr J M Chinamano	Mr S V Muzenda
Mr J W Msika	Mr E Z Tekere
Mr A M Chambati	Mr J M Tongogara
Mr John Nkomo	Mr H Ushewokunze
Mr S K Sibanda	Mr D Mutumbuka
Mr C Ndlovu	Mr J Tungamirai
Mr W Musururwa	Mr E Zvobgo
Miss T Siziba	Mr S Mubako

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

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The session started at 11.35.

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Conference that Sir Antony Duff had been taken ill and, following an emergency operation, was recovering in hospital. His absence was a great loss. He now wished to introduce Sir John Graham who was fortunately in London. At the Chairman's suggestion the Conference agreed to send a message of good wishes to Sir Antony.

The Chairman, referring to the paper tabled by the British delegation at the Fourteenth Plenary Session (Conference Paper CC(79)32), said that the comments of the visiting delegations were awaited. He asked whether either delegation had any observations.

BISHOP MUZOREWA then delivered a statement to the Conference, later circulated as Conference Paper CC(79)35.

When Bishop Muzorewa had completed his statement THE CHAIRMAN asked Mr Mugabe for any observations. MR MUGABE said that his delegation were still in the process of completing their reply to the British proposals and that they would present it as soon as it was ready, perhaps in half a day's time. His delegation were also concerned about the procedure to be followed at this stage of the Conference. They had objected to the procedure followed during the first stage of the Conference and he therefore suggested that his delegation and the Chair might discuss the question. THE CHAIRMAN said that he did not consider that it would be right for a Chairman to refuse to meet a delegation if they requested a bilateral /meeting

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meeting: however he thought that the Conference should proceed in plenary session as far as possible.

In reply to a query from the Chairman, BISHOP MUZOREWA confirmed that copies of his statement would be made available.

THE CHAIRMAN then suggested that the next session should be at 17.00, when he would provide the answers to the questions raised in Bishop Muzorewa's statement; and if Mr Mugabe were ready his delegation could put in their paper. MR MUGABE said that their paper would be ready the following morning.

THE CHAIRMAN commented that he was becoming increasingly concerned at the lack of progress. He hoped that as soon as Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo's paper was tabled and as soon as Bishop Muzorewa's points had been answered, the Conference would move forward with plenary meetings and take decisions. Discussion was needed and decisions had to be taken. The latter could not continue to be postponed.

BISHOP MUZOREWA then said that he and his delegation were running a country. They had been in London too long and were losing patience. To achieve progress he wanted his delegation's questions answered that day in plenary session, together with a bilateral meeting.

After further discussion it was decided that the next plenary session would be held at 17.00, followed by a bilateral meeting as requested. A further plenary meeting

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would be held in the morning of 26 October at which Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo's paper would be received. Discussions in Plenary meetings would then follow at which decisions would be taken. The Chairman also suggested that the Conference might continue working over the weekend.

The session closed at 11.55.

- 3 -

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