

RESTRICTED

CC(79)70
THIRTY-FIRST PLENARY SESSION

COPY NO: 89

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
LANCASTER HOUSE
LONDON

Summary of the proceedings of the
Thirty-First Plenary Session, Monday
12 November 1979

Lancaster House
12 November 1979

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

PRESENT:

UK Delegation

Lord Carrington (in the Chair)

Mr D M Day

Mr R W Renwick

Mr N M Fenn

Mr G G H Walden

Mr A M Layden

Mr R M J Lyne

Mrs A J Phillips

Mr M C Wood

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Bishop Muzorewa and Delegation

Dr S C Mundawarara
Mr E L Bulle
Rev N Sithole
Mr D C Smith
Mr L G Smith
Air Vice Marshal H Hawkins
Mr D Zamchiya
Mr M A Adam
Mr P Claypole
Mr D Bradley
Mr A R MacMillan

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Mr Mugabe, Mr Nkomo and Delegation

Mr J M Nkomo

Mr J M Chinamano

Mr J W Msika

Mr T G Silundika

Mr A M Chambati

Mr L Baron

Mr S K Sibanda

Mr W Musarurwa

Miss E Siziba

Mr R G Mugabe

Mr S V Muzenda

Dr H Ushewokunze

Mr J Tungamirai

Mr E Zvobgo

Mr S Mubako

Mr W Kamba

Secretariat

Mr J M Willson

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

The session commenced at 16.06.

THE CHAIRMAN said that he understood that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe had asked for a session of the Conference to be convened.

MR NKOMO confirmed that this was so. His delegation wished to put to the Conference its view that the time had come for the formation of smaller groups, which could go into the various problems highlighted in his delegation's response (CC(79)69) to the British proposals and the Chairman's comments on it (CC(79)68). Mr Nkomo said that these smaller groups need not necessarily be bilateral; they could include members of Bishop Muzorewa's delegation, if they wished to participate.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the British Government had over the weekend put forward a number of positive suggestions, partly as a result of the visit to London of President Kaunda:

- (a) it had been emphasised that the Governor would be prepared to meet any political leader, should matters arise which could not be resolved by their respective advisers;
- (b) the British Government was ready to do everything possible to help with the resettlement of refugees, in conjunction with the other governments concerned, international organisations and other governments which were prepared to offer aid to this end;
- (c) it had been explained that all parties would have an equal status on the Election Council, and that any of

/its

RESTRICTED

its members would be free to make representations to the Election Commissioner on any matter relating to the elections, i.e. on their organisation and administration, on access to the media and on arrangements for public meetings etc. This, the Chairman suggested, constituted a very wide mandate. The Council would have no connection with the existing machinery of government;

- (d) finally, the British Government had repeated that the cease-fire would be for discussion in the next phase of the Conference.

The Chairman hoped that the positive elements in those suggestions would be recognised.

The Chairman said that he was happy for a smaller group, as proposed by Mr Nkomo, to start work. It was up to the Salisbury delegation to decide whether they wished to participate. This smaller group might meet the following morning in a determined effort to reach final agreement on the interim proposals. The Conference had been discussing these for a very long time, and decisions must be reached in the next day or two.

MR NKOMO said that matters raised during the visit of President Kaunda might be discussed either bilaterally or within the smaller group, with a determination to arrive at decisions. It was not fair, however, to demand that agreement should be reached within two days. His delegation hoped that a speedy
/agreement

RESTRICTED

agreement would be attainable, but the group would be considering the most sensitive issues raised during the Conference. It was necessary to proceed coolly.

THE CHAIRMAN reiterated the requirement for an early decision, and then adjourned the Conference.

The session ended at 16.14.

- 3 -

RESTRICTED