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CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Rhodesia
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PRIME MINISTER'S

FM FCO 121146Z OCT 79

PERSONAL MESSAGE

TO FLASH LUSAKA

SERIAL No. TUT 1795

TELNO 834 OF 12 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, DAR ES SALAAM, PRETORIA, GABORONE, MAPUTO, UKMIS NEW YORK, LAGOS.

MIPT: RHODESIA.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPLY FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

BEGINS:

DEAR KENNETH,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE. I WAS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ASSURANCE OF CONTINUING SUPPORT IN THE DIFFICULT TASK AHEAD. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT OUR AIM IS A SETTLEMENT INVOLVING ALL THE PARTIES, WHICH WILL BRING PEACE TO RHODESIA AND TO ZAMBIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES WE AGREED ON AT LUSAKA.

I WAS HEARTENED BY YOUR WELCOME FOR THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION WHICH WE HAVE TABLED. IT HAS GONE A LONG WAY TO MEET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S REQUIREMENTS AND IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NO EASY TASK TO SECURE THE SALISBURY DELEGATION'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT. BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN WILLING TO COMPROMISE AND WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THAT. BUT THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES. IN THESE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WE HAVE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL THESE ISSUES AND ARE QUITE CONFIDENT THAT OUR CONSTITUTION REPRESENTS THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE.

AT THE SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON 11 OCTOBER THE PATRIOTIC FRONT RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES AND KEPT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF REVERTING TO THEM AT A LATER STAGE. THIS IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH OUR AGREEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE THAT, BEFORE MOVING ON TO DISCUSS THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS, WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF, CONTINGENT OF COURSE TO SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT ON THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE TO DISCUSS THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS AND WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL LET US KNOW IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT THE CONSTITUTION, SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS.

I AM ASKING MY HIGH COMMISSIONER TO EXPLAIN TO YOU THE POSITION ON THE SPECIFIC POINTS WHICH YOU RAISE ON THE CONSTITUTION. IN

PARTICULAR, WE HERE ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMMENSE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUESTION OF LAND. BUT THE POINT IS, AS I AM SURE YOU YOURSELF UNDERSTAND, THAT IT IS OF REAL SIGNIFICANCE TO BOTH SIDES. IT IS NATURAL THAT THE SUBJECT SHOULD AROUSE STRONG EMOTIONS ON BOTH SIDES. WE ARE ALL CONSCIOUS OF THAT. BUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE, IN OUR CONSTITUTION, IS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE UNDERUTILISED LAND COMPULSORILY - AS WELL OF COURSE AS BEING ABLE TO BUY LAND FROM FARMERS WHO WANT TO LEAVE. WHAT WE HAVE UNDERLINE NEXT WORD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO IS TO AGREE THAT COMPENSATION SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE PAYABLE. I AM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT. ONCE RHODESIA IS INDEPENDENT, INVESTMENT FUNDS, AND AID MONEY TOO, WILL BEGIN COMING IN AND I AM SURE IN MY OWN MIND THAT FINDING THE MONEY FOR A SENSIBLE SCHEME OF LAND REDISTRIBUTION WILL NOT BE A REAL PROBLEM. WE WOULD HELP WITH THIS - WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

YOU RAISE THE QUESTION OF RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. SINCE ISSUING INVITATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, WE HAVE PRESSED BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT A CEASE-FIRE. BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS EXPRESSED A READINESS TO AGREE TO THIS. I THINK IT A TRAGEDY THAT THE FIGHTING HAS CONTINUED DURING THE CONFERENCE. ONCE WE HAVE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION, WE SHALL BE RENEWING OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CEASEFIRE AND ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL THE PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT US IN THIS.

LET ME REPEAT IN CONCLUSION HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR YOUR ADVICE AND SUPPORT. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE AS ANXIOUS AS I AM TO SEE THE CONFLICT ENDED. YOU HAVE PERSONALLY MADE GREAT EFFORTS, AT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AND SINCE, TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. THE CONFERENCE HAS REACHED A DIFFICULT POINT, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO REACH A LASTING SETTLEMENT AND TO BRING ABOUT RECONCILIATION.

2. PLEASE SEE MIPT.

CARRINGTON

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ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
RHODESIA POLICY