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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 July 1979

Dear Bryan,

Prime Minister

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Bishop Muzorewa's Visit

I enclose a brief, which has been approved by Lord Carrington, for the discussions with Bishop Muzorewa on 13 July. The Annex on the Constitution - in particular paragraph 5 - has been revised in the light of the discussion in the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee on 5 July.

Objectives

Lord Carrington thinks that our objectives at this stage should be to persuade the Bishop that:

- (a) it is our intention to work with him for a solution which will help to win international acceptance and hold out a prospect of a de-escalation of the war;
- (b) legal independence will have to stem from Britain as the constitutionally responsible authority. Some constitutional changes are likely to be necessary to help to win wider acceptance. We will wish to discuss the possibilities further with him;
- (c) he should go on expressing willingness to talk to the Patriotic Front and be ready in due course to participate in a meeting designed to demonstrate whether they are prepared to participate in a settlement on any reasonable basis;
- (d) he will need to take opportunities to assert his leadership, demonstrate that there has been a genuine transfer of power and that he is taking action to promote the interests of the African majority.

Confidentiality

Lord Carrington will emphasise the confidentiality of the discussions with himself and with the Prime Minister. It will be important to avoid anything said in them being misrepresented in such a way as to cause unnecessary difficulties vis-à-vis the summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity on 15-19 July and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

/Line

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Line to Take with the Press

If the Prime Minister agrees, Lord Carrington will tell Bishop Muzoresa that after the talks we will take the following line with the press:

- (a) The Prime Minister and Lord Carrington have discussed with Bishop Muzorewa ways of making progress towards the Government's stated objective of bringing Rhodesia to legal independence with wide international acceptance;
- (b) The discussions have encouraged us to believe that it will be possible, once the Government's consultations have been completed, to put forward proposals to bring Rhodesia to legal independence in conditions which should be accepted as fair and reasonable by the people of Rhodesia and the international community.
- (c) The Government will be continuing its consultations with particular reference to the discussions at the CHOGM in Lusaka;
- (d) There will be further discussions with Bishop Muzorewa and his colleagues as necessary in Salisbury and elsewhere;
- (e) [If asked what specific proposals were discussed.]  
The Government have not put forward any specific proposals at this stage. It will be our intention to do so when our consultations have been completed.

Lord Carrington would propose to ask Bishop Muzorewa to take a line as closely comparable to this as possible in his own statements to the press.

*Yours ever,  
Stephen*

J S Wall  
Private Secretary