

SUBJECT



STATE HOUSE  
RIBADU ROAD  
LAGOS, NIGERIA

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. ....

T134a/79T

Ref. No. SH 1882/S. 70

5th November, 1979.

*Dear Prime Minister,*

*I thank you for writing to me so soon after the return to London of the Honourable Richard Luce to let me know that he has given you an account of his discussion with me on 24 October.*

*I am grateful of the assurances you expressed of your determination in seeking to achieve a satisfactory outcome in the Second Stage of the Conference.*

*Mr. Luce may have informed you that I did feel, and still do, that given the present difficult situation in Zimbabwe the two months period intended for the Parties to prepare for elections could be extended to at least four months.*

*I was also made to understand that it was not intended to provide for Voter's Registration or to arrange for a delimitation of Constituencies. Instead, there would be provision for Party Lists. I know that the Party Lists system is not one which Her Majesty's Government and the Nigerian Government are familiar with although it is said to be extensively used on the European Continent. Nevertheless, I am not unhappy about the intended use of this innovation since I understand that both sides, namely the Muzorewa Group and the Patriotic Front, have found it acceptable.*

*Furthermore, it is my feeling that it would be essential for peace to be achieved and maintained before embarking upon elections. I therefore urge that a ceasefire should be first attained. In my view, it would be equally essential for provision to be made*

*... /against possible breaches ....*

*The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON.*



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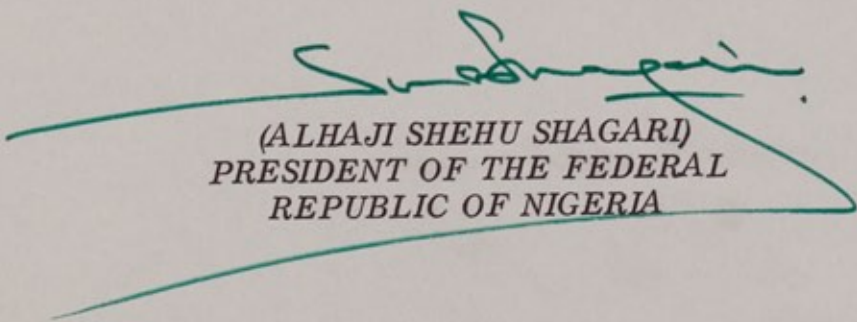
*against possible breaches of the ceasefire as I am not sure that even in the best spirit of compromise military commanders on both sides would find it easy to meet and work or fight together for peace.*

*It is still not sufficiently clear to me what your intentions are with regard to the establishment of a peace-keeping force. While I appreciate that we are expecting a political agreement, together with the will to fulfil that agreement, I must express reservations about the adequacy of the Police Force, even if assisted by British Police Advisers.*

*Taking into account all the circumstances, we in Nigeria feel reasonably satisfied with the spirit of compromise which is so far emerging. Accordingly, we are looking forward to a successful conference to a mutually acceptable, genuinely free and independent Zimbabwe.*

*On bilateral relations, please permit me to avail myself of this opportunity to thank you for your congratulatory message of best wishes for the success of my Administration in the years ahead. I and my Administration share your expressed intention for us to work together on international problems of common concern. It is indeed our reciprocal desire to strengthen Anglo-Nigerian relations and I feel that everything should be done to sustain the co-operation and understanding that have long existed between our two countries and peoples.*

*Yours Very Sincerely,*

  
(ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI)  
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA