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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1980

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Dear Rosene,

CALL BY BISHOP MUZOREWA

Bishop Muzorewa and Dr. Mundawarara called on the Prime Minister on the morning of Friday 21 December. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Lord Privy Seal attended the meeting.

After exchanging congratulations on the Agreement due to be signed later in the morning, the Prime Minister asked about the situation in Salisbury. Dr. Mundawarara said that the morale of the people was very good. There had been a tremendous improvement as a result of the lifting of sanctions. Bishop Muzorewa agreed with his colleague and said that the return of Rhodesia to the international community was of great importance.

In the ensuing discussion of the forthcoming election, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that it was essential that Bishop Muzorewa and his party should take credit for everything achieved at Lancaster House. Sanctions had been lifted, a ceasefire achieved and a settlement negotiated. The Bishop should make it clear that he was largely responsible for this success. Bishop Muzorewa said that much of the credit was, of course, due to the Prime Minister and Lord Carrington. But he undertook to bear in mind what they had said and promised that he would win the election. He said that, nonetheless, he anticipated that the election would be easy. There would be a physical problem in that the rainy season would be at its height and all the signs were that the rains in 1980 would be very good, i.e. very heavy. There would be a security problem in that the other side would undoubtedly engage in large-scale intimidation and gangsterism. And, finally, there was a political problem in that he had been in power for six months and thus risked being accused by the electorate of not having delivered enough in that time. The Prime Minister encouraged him to take credit for the disappearance of the discrimination laws and for the progress towards black majority rule which had been achieved since the previous election.

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The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary asked the Bishop about Mr. Chikerema's prospects. Bishop Muzorewa said he had no support. He could be ignored. However, the Bishop commented that someone had given Mr. Chikerema a great deal of financial support. He mentioned the names of Mr. Connie Mulder and Mr. Tiny Rowlands in this connection. Bishop Muzorewa also referred to Mr. Sithole and said that he would be lucky to win five seats. He hinted, however, that he would, if necessary, be prepared to collaborate with Mr. Sithole in defeating the Patriotic Front.

Commenting on the white politicians, Bishop Muzorewa said that he expected Mr. Smith to play "his usual divide-and-rule game". He said that Messrs. Kronje and David Smith were, on the other hand, very constructive people.

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

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