

OPS

Subject a Zimbabwe  
May 80.



PRIME MINISTER  
SALISBURY

7th October, 1980.

T 198 AA/80

The Prime Minister,  
The Honourable Margaret Thatcher,

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T198 AA/80**

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

It gives me much pleasure on behalf of my Government, to invite the Government of the United Kingdom to attend the Zimbabwe Donors Conference to be held at Salisbury at Ministerial level on the 23rd to the 27th March, 1981.

You will recall, Madam Prime Minister, that at the Lancaster House Conference it was accepted that Zimbabwe would need large sums of money to deal adequately with the crucial question of land development. Since that time and with the return of peace to Zimbabwe not only has more accurate assessment of the financial needs for land development become possible, but further areas of urgent need, not previously envisaged have emerged. These areas are related to the war and concern rehabilitation, reconstruction, and technical assistance.

...../2

The role which Her Majesty's Government is prepared to play will be of crucial importance to the success of this Conference, which will be seen by many, and by us, as the fulfilment of the undertaking by Great Britain at Lancaster House to support the efforts of the Government of independent Zimbabwe to obtain international assistance.

Because of these undertakings, of our special historic relations with one another and of Great Britain's position in the international community, many countries will be inclined to follow your own lead.

Zimbabwe's present situation has created a unique opportunity for its people to build a fully racially integrated, stable and prosperous society such as no country—certainly no developing country—in the world, has so far attained.

Honourable Prime Minister, you are well aware of the strategically, important position politically, industrially and geographically which my country occupies in this region of Southern Africa. Any failure on our part would not only spell disaster for Zimbabwe but would adversely affect the world as a whole.

I know of your close and personal interest in our young Nation. I and my Government are deeply appreciative of your Government's

generosity both in regard to the £75 million and to your military assistance which has helped us find our feet as a nation. It is my fervent hope that you will continue your vital role in ensuring a maximum attendance at the most senior ministerial level and of course a significant aid contribution by other donors. I have no doubt that in both these fields, knowing your sympathy and understanding, Great Britain will excel itself.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

*R. G. Mugabe*

Robert G. Mugabe

Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

PRIME MINISTER'S  
OFFICE

7 OCT 1980

ZIMBABWE

RCM/c.z.