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TO IMMEDIATE MIRIMBA SALISBURY

TELEGRAM NO 99 OF 5 JULY.

INFO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA

Prime Minister

Nkomo has now made his statement; it remains to be seen whether the

Bishop will follow suit - for

CHGM

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO LUSAKA, MR. RAMPHAL MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING NKOMO TO ISSUE A PUBLIC UNDERTAKING THAT, DURING THE PERIOD FROM 2359 HOURS ON 24 JULY UNTIL 2359 ON 10 AUGUST, THERE WILL BE A STANDSTILL BY ZAMBIAN-BASED FORCES OF ZAPU IN RESPECT OF OPERATIONS INTO RHODESIA AND THAT EXCEPT FOR ACTION IN RESPONSE TO ENEMY ATTACK, A CEASEFIRE WILL BE OBSERVED DURING THE PERIOD BY THESE FORCES ON THE ZAMBIAN/RHODESIAN BORDER. NKOMO WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE DECISION WAS IN DEFERENCE TO THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. THE STATEMENT MAY BE MADE TOMORROW AFTERNOON, 6 JULY.

2. AS YOU KNOW, WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONDITIONS IN LUSAKA WHICH WILL PERMIT THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO TAKE PLACE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO ATTEND THE CHGM.

A STATEMENT ON THESE LINES BY NKOMO WOULD BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREATION OF CONFIDENCE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SIMILAR UNDERTAKING BY BISHOP MUZOREWA IN RESPECT OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES.

3. MUZOREWA REACTED CAUTIOUSLY WHEN LORD HARLECH RAISED THIS WITH HIM ON 4 JULY (PRETORIA TEL. NO. 306). IN VIEW OF THE LIKELY TIMING OF NKOMO'S STATEMENT WE SHALL PROBABLY WANT YOU (UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION) TO SPEAK URGENTLY TO BISHOP MUZOREWA OR TO MUNDAWARARA. YOU WOULD TELL THEM, EMPHASISING THAT YOU WERE DOING SO IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT NKOMO IS LIKELY TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF THIS KIND, AND THAT, IF HE DOES SO, WE SHALL BE LOOKING TO THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES TO RESPOND. THEIR RESPONSE SHOULD CONTAIN A FIRM UNDERTAKING THAT THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES WILL REFRAIN FROM INCURSIONS INTO ZAMBIA AND WILL SEEK TO AVOID INCIDENTS ON THE BORDER (UNLESS THEY ARE THEMSELVES ATTACKED) IN THE PERIOD IN QUESTION.

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YOU COULD POINT OUT THAT THIS SELF-DENYING ORDINANCE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE SORT OF CEASEFIRE WHICH THE BISHOP APPEARED TO BE ENVISAGING IN HIS TALK WITH LORD HARLECH AND OF WHICH ZAPU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE. AT A MINIMUM WE MUST TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE RHODESIANS DO NOT IMMEDIATELY REACT NEGATIVELY TO A DECLARATION BY NKOMO. YOU MIGHT THINK IT ADVISABLE TO SPEAK ALSO TO GENERAL WALLS AS SOON AS THE ZAPU STATEMENT IS MADE.

4. IN SPEAKING TO THE BISHOP YOU WOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT A STATEMENT ON THESE LINES WOULD EARN CREDIT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH LEADERS AND THAT CONVERSELY, A FAILURE TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC UNDERTAKING OF THIS KIND, PARTICULARLY IF ONE WERE GIVEN BY NKOMO, WOULD PUT HIM AT A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE. IT WOULD RENDER MORE DIFFICULT OUR TASK IN PERSUADING OTHER COMMONWEALTH LEADERS TO ACCEPT A SOLUTION BASED ON THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE INSIDE RHODESIA. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ASKING THE RHODESIANS TO CEASE DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THIS PERIOD; THE UNDERTAKINGS IN QUESTION WOULD APPLY TO CROSS-BORDER RAIDS.

5. YOU SHOULD TAKE NO ACTION FOR THE TIME BEING. WE WILL TELEGRAPH OR TELEPHONE AS SOON AS WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE ZAPU STATEMENT IS TO BE MADE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION WE MAY INSTRUCT YOU TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY, BUT CONFIDENTIALITY UNTIL THE ZAPU STATEMENT IS PUBLIC IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. WE DO NOT WANT THE RHODESIANS TO FOUL UP RAMPHAL'S CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED PLAN BY LEAKING IT IN ADVANCE.

CARRINGTON

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