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3/10/79

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 10 7A/79T

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Subject on
Rhodesia:
Situation!
RT 7

FM FCO 021823Z OCT 79
TO FLASH LUSAKA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 800 OF 2 OCTOBER

AND TO FLASH DAR ES SALAAM AND GABORONE IMMEDIATE MAPUTO LAGOS
LUANDA

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK *PRETORIA*

RHODESIA: CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

1. I EXPECT TO TABLE THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPANDED CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA AT A PLENARY SESSION IN LANCASTER HOUSE ON THE AFTERNOON OF WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER. THESE WILL COMPRISE A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION FOR RHODESIA, BUT WILL NOT BE IN THEIR FINAL LEGAL FORM. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION AT THIS STAGE, THESE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR FURTHER AMENDMENT: I SHALL BE INVITING THE PARTIES TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THEY ACCEPT THEM AFTER A DEFINED PERIOD OF REFLECTION.

2. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS ARE BROUGHT UP TO DATE WITH OUR VIEW OF PROGRESS AT THE CONFERENCE BEFORE THE FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION IS Tabled. LUSAKA, DAR ES SALAAM AND GABORONE SHOULD THEREFORE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. MAPUTO, LAGOS AND LUANDA SHOULD SEEK AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK IN SIMILAR TERMS TO SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED BEFORE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS ARE Tabled.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, NYERERE AND KHANA:

BEGINS

QUOTE YOU WILL, I AM SURE, HAVE BEEN GETTING REPORTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION IN THIS FIRST STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE HAS (INEVITABLY, I SUPPOSE) TAKEN LONGER THAN I FOR ONE HAD HOPED, IT HAS PRODUCED A VERY THOROUGH AND DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE POSITIONS AND DESIRES OF BOTH SIDES TO THE CONFLICT. AS A RESULT, WE SHALL VERY SHORTLY BE IN A POSITION TO TABLE OUR OWN FULL VERSION OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ENACT FOR RHODESIA. GIVEN THE STRONGLY DIFFERING VIEWS BETWEEN THE PARTIES, OUR CONSTITUTION WILL NATURALLY NOT SATISFY EITHER OF THEM, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL, INDEED VERY HOPEFUL, THAT THEY WILL BOTH ACCEPT IT.

/QUOTE WE

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QUOTE WE SHALL THEN BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO THE SECOND PHASE. IT IS OF COURSE CLEAR TO ALL OF US THAT IF THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND ACHIEVE ITS AIMS, AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION MUST BE FOLLOWED BY AGREEMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD, BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY. IN OTHER WORDS, ONCE WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION, WE HAVE TO AGREE HOW TO BRING IT INTO EFFECT. AS YOU AND I WELL KNOW, THIS STAGE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WILL THROW UP A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WHICH, THOUGH TRANSIENT, WILL IN SOME RESPECTS BE MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE THAN THOSE OF THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF.

QUOTE HOWEVER, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE SHALL PRESS ON IN GOOD FAITH AND RESOLVE TO IMPLEMENT TO THE FULL THE UNDERSTANDING WE SO HAPPILY REACHED BETWEEN US AT LUSAKA.

MARGARET THATCHER UNQUOTE

ENDS

CARRINGTON

F I L E S

RHOD D

C A E D

EAD

S A F D

WAD

NEWS D

OID

PS

PS/LPS

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

SIR A DUFF

MR DAY

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