

RESTRICTED

T12A/80

OPS Subject on
Rhodesia: Situation
Pt 13.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T12A/80.

GRS 417

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FM FCO 161710Z JANUARY 80

TO IMMEDIATE MONROVIA

TELEGRAM NUMBER 6 OF 16 JANUARY

INFO SALISBURY

YOUR TELNO 4

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT: RHODESIA

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT.

BEGINS

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT RHODESIA, WHICH I HAVE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY.

2. DURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, LORD CARRINGTON GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXTERNAL INTERVENTION OR INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA UNDER THE GOVERNOR.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF A SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENT TO GUARD BEITBRIDGE ON THE BORDER CONSTITUTES INTERVENTION THE FORCE IS SMALL AND IS PRESENT SOLELY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE BRIDGE, WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMIES OF RHODESIA AND OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. THE BRIDGE IS HALF SOUTH AFRICAN PROPERTY. DAMAGE TO IT WOULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THERE IS A TEAM FROM THE COMMONWEALTH MONITORING FORCE PRESENT AT BEITBRIDGE AND I AM SATISFIED THAT THIS GIVES US SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE THAT THE ROLE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENT THERE WILL BE LIMITED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE BRIDGE. I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNOR WILL KEEP THE NEED FOR THIS SPECIAL MEASURE OF PROTECTION UNDER REVIEW. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT AN EXCEPTIONAL MEASURE TO PROTECT A VITAL FEATURE ON THE BORDER BETWEEN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT AMOUNT TO EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA.

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4. I SHAKE YOUR DESIRE TO SEE THE AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED AT LANCASTER HOUSE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT REMARKABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SIGNED: IN THIS RESPECT WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING AND SERIOUS BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRE WHICH HAVE BEEN COMMITTED, MOSTLY BY ZANLA FORCES. THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT COMPATIBLE EITHER WITH THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT ITSELF OR WITH THE UNDERTAKING SIGNED BY ALL THE DELEGATIONS AT LANCASTER HOUSE TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE AND TO CAMPAIGN WITHOUT INTIMIDATION. I HOPE YOU WILL FEEL ABLE TO URGE ON THOSE CONCERNED THE NEED TO ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENTS.

5. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL KEEP ME CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR VIEWS, WHICH I VALUE GREATLY. YOUR COOPERATION AND ADVICE WAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE. MAY I WISH YOU, ALSO, MR PRESIDENT, A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

YOURS SINCERELY

MARGARET THATCHER

ENDS

CARRINGTON

FILES

WAD
RHODESIA
OADS
NAD

FUSD
PLANNING STAFF
ES & SD

CCD
FRD
EID (E)

UND
LEGAL ADVISERS
(MR FREELAND)
(MR FLECOE)

ECOM D
ECD
DEF D
IPD

OID
NEWS D
PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR LUCE
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/MR HURD
PS/MR MARTEN
PS/FUS
SIR D MAITLAND

MR HANNAY
LORD N G LENNOX
MISS BROWN
MR DAY
MR BRINGUSSON
MR ASPIN
MR MILLS
CPO

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
RHODESIA POLICY