



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 May 1979

B G Cartledge Esq  
No 10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Dear Bryan

*No - please do not meet leaders in the "Patriotic Front". I have never done this with Ken's until they become more private than*

Prime Minister

*Content with his approach to Lord Harlech's mission?  
BM  
25/5*

RHODESIA

As you know, Lord Harlech has agreed to be the Government's emissary on Rhodesia.

Lord Carrington envisages (subject to confirmation by our posts in the countries concerned) that the emissary's first round of talks should include consultations with Presidents Kaunda, Nyerere, Machel and Sir Seretse Khama and General Obasanjo. Lord Carrington considers that the emissary should offer to meet the co-leaders of the Patriotic Front in Lusaka and Maputo, as we should not appear to be excluding them from our consultations. Lord Carrington does not believe it is necessary for the emissary to see President Neto of Angola. On the other hand, Nigeria's political and economic importance justifies the inclusion of Lagos in the itinerary. We are at present planning on the assumption that the itinerary can be carried out between, say, 11 and 22 June.

I enclose a copy of a telegram which we have sent to front line posts telling them about Lord Harlech. It is not now certain that the front line Presidents will meet over this weekend but Lord Carrington thought it important to let them know straight away what we had in mind, partly in the hope that we might pre-empt unhelpful public statements.

We would hope to delay an announcement about Lord Harlech until approaches have been made to the governments concerned. We have told Lord Harlech that we would hope to make the announcement next week and I enclose a copy of the text we have in mind. In public comment, Lord Carrington suggests that we should avoid creating the expectation that the emissary's mission will be followed by early decisions or statements by the Government. He believes that it will be best to take the line that the Government will be considering the next steps in the light of what the emissary has to say about his consultations and of Mr Day's reports on his mission to Salisbury. It is clear that further extensive consultation with other Commonwealth and African governments will be desirable before the OAU meetings in Monrovia in July and the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka. It will probably be necessary for the emissary to return to Africa, and to report further to the Prime Minister before the Commonwealth Conference.

/I am



I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of other members of OD and to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever,  
Stephen*

J S Wall  
Private Secretary