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TO FLASH LAGOS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 777 OF 13 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK.

Subject copy  
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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T1170/79T

MY TELEGRAM NO. 767: RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO PRESIDENT SHAGARI FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

BEGINS.

I WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELPFUL MESSAGE WHICH I RECEIVED LAST NIGHT.

BOTH SIDES HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE TABLED IN THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION WHICH WE HAVE PUT FORWARD HAS IN OUR VIEW GONE A VERY LONG WAY TO MEETING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S REQUIREMENTS. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NO EASY TASK TO SECURE THE SALISBURY DELEGATION'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT. THAT CONSTITUTION PROVIDES, INDISPUTABLY, FOR GENUINE MAJORITY RULE. IN FIVE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WE HAVE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL THE ISSUES. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CONSTITUTION WE HAVE PUT FORWARD IS THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. WE CANNOT MAKE FURTHER CHANGES AT THIS STAGE.

WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OVER THE QUESTION OF LAND. WE RECOGNISE THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROBLEM TO BOTH SIDES. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION MAKES FULLY ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR SETTLEMENT. BUT, THERE MUST ALSO BE PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION. LORD CARRINGTON MADE A STATEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE ON 11 OCTOBER PROMISING THAT WE WOULD HELP, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND SETTLEMENT PROJECTS AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE SHALL ALSO BE READY TO HELP THE NEW GOVERNMENT OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THESE AND OTHER PURPOSES.

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IF THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH DELEGATIONS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS SUPERVISED UNDER OUR AUTHORITY - AS WE AGREED AT LUSAKA - AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. THIS WILL OFFER FURTHER HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE MAKING PROGRESS, THAT RHODESIA WILL COME TO INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND THAT THE PARTIES WILL BE PREPARED TO COMPETE FOR POWER BY POLITICAL MEANS.

WE HAVE MADE CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS CONFERENCE THAT IN OUR VIEW AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION IS CONDITIONAL ON AGREEMENT ALSO ON THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS. BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS ACCEPTED THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION, SUBJECT TO THAT RESERVATION; AND IT IS OPEN TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO DO EXACTLY THE SAME.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT IN BRINGING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

AS THIS IS THE FIRST MESSAGE WHICH I HAVE ADDRESSED TO YOU SINCE YOUR ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE I SHOULD LIKE TO END BY SENDING YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS, AND MY BEST WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I AND MY COLLEAGUES LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF COMMON CONCERN TO US. IT IS OUR FIRM DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND BRITAIN WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. THERE IS A WHOLE NETWORK OF CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ON WHICH WE MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD.

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2. YOU SHOULD INFORM YOUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUE OF THE ACTION WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN. MESSAGES ON SOMEWHAT THE SAME LINES ARE BEING SENT TO NYERERE, MACHEL, SERETSE KHAMA AND TOLBERT. LUANDA IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO SPEAK TO THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT..

CARRINGTON

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