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Situation*

*to
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FM FCO 211202Z JANUARY 1980

TO IMMEDIATE LAGOS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 70 OF 21 JAN

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY, LUSAKA, MAPUTO,

GABORONE, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T15A/80**

RHODESIA: REPLY TO PRESIDENT SHAGARI'S MESSAGE

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO

PRESIDENT SHAGARI:

BEGINS

THANK YOU FOR WRITING TO ME SO FRANKLY ABOUT RHODESIA.

I AGREE THAT WE MUST CARRY THROUGH OUR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENT PEACEFULLY AND AMICABLY.

I NOTE VERY CAREFULLY YOUR MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DETACHMENT AT BEITBRIDGE. JULIUS NYERERE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ME ON THIS SAME ISSUE. BUT I DO URGE MOST STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD VIEW THIS PROBLEM IN ITS TRUE PERSPECTIVE. THE STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF BEITBRIDGE IS SELF-EVIDENT. DAMAGE TO IT COULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES, PARTICULARLY FOR RHODESIA WHICH IS DEPENDENT ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPLIES, BUT ALSO FOR OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT IT SHOULD BE PROPERLY PROTECTED AND SOUTH AFRICA HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN SEEING THAT IT IS: THE BRIDGE IS JOINTLY OWNED BY SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. THE SOUTH AFRICAN DETACHMENT GUARDING THE RHODESIAN END OF THE BRIDGE IS SMALL AND IS THERE EXCLUSIVELY TO GUARD THE BRIDGE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ITS BEING ABLE, OR ALLOWED, TO INTERFERE IN ANY WAY IN RHODESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR TO PREJUDICE THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS. IT MAY BE THAT DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL MAKE ITS PRESENCE UNNECESSARY, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNOR WILL KEEP THE NEED FOR IT UNDER REVIEW. IN THE MEANTIME THE PRESENCE OF A TEAM FROM THE MONITORING FORCE IN

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THE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGE WILL GIVE ALL OF US THE ASSURANCE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN DETACHMENT IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO THE DEFENCE OF THE BRIDGE.

YOU SUGGEST THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD BE REPLACED BY BRITISH TROOPS. A NUMBER OF BRITISH TROOPS ARE OF COURSE PRESENT IN RHODESIA AS PART OF THE MONITORING FORCE. BUT IT WAS MADE CLEAR DURING THE CONFERENCE THAT THE MONITORING FORCE WOULD NOT BE AN INTERVENTION OR A FIGHTING FORCE, AND IT WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE FORCE OR ANY OF ITS UNITS TO TAKE ON DEFENCE OF THE BRIDGE. NOR DO I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRACTICABLE TO HAVE BRITISH TROOPS IN RHODESIA FULFILLING TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ROLES, THAT IS SOME AS MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING FORCE AND OTHERS IN A FIGHTING CAPACITY.

I KNOW THAT THIS IS A SENSITIVE ISSUE. WE SHALL THEREFORE KEEP IT UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW. THE OVERRIDING NEED IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN RHODESIA IN THIS PERIOD WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. THIS WE ARE DETERMINED TO ENSURE.

YOU ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S USE OF RHODESIAN FORCES. THIS ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF SERIOUS BREACHES IN THE CEASEFIRE, IN THE FORM OF CROSS-BORDER INFILTRATION BY PF FORCES, FAILURE ON THEIR PART TO ASSEMBLE AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION. IN DEALING WITH THESE INCIDENTS, THE GOVERNOR HAS MADE FULL USE OF THE PF COMMANDERS AND LIAISON OFFICERS TO DEFUSE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS. HE HAS ALSO USED THE POLICE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, AS REQUIRED BY THE AGREEMENTS. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES WHERE THE POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH THE TASK: AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO DEAL WITH ACTS OF BANDITRY, THE GOVERNOR HAS AUTHORISED THE USE OF RHODESIAN FORCES IN SUPPORT OF THE POLICE. HE HAS ALSO BEEN COMPELLED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS TO DEPLOY FORCES TO THE BORDER AREAS TO DEAL WITH CONTINUING INFILTRATION OF PF FORCES IN VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS. I STRESS THE USE OF THE RHODESIAN FORCES IN THIS WAY IS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC INCIDENTS, AND THE FORCES THEMSELVES ARE MONITORED WHEN USED. IN THE SPECIFIC

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CASE TO WHICH YOU REFER, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S OWN MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE ARMED CROUP HAD FAILED TO OBEY THEIR ORDERS AND WAS IN BREACH OF THE CEASEFIRE.

I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO SOME MATTERS WHICH CAUSE ME ANXIETY. ONE WHICH IS CAUSING ME PARTICULAR CONCERN IS MR MUGABE'S FAILURE TO RELEASE SOME SEVENTY FORMER MEMBERS OF ZANU WHOM HE IS HOLDING IN DETENTION IN MOZAMBIQUE. WE HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF EFFORTS TO PERSUADE HIM TO RELEASE THEM SO THAT THEY CAN RETURN TO RHODESIA TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS: AND IT IS URGENT THAT HE SHOULD AGREE TO DO SO BEFORE NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS CLOSE ON 21 JANUARY. THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENTS WERE VERY SPECIFIC ON THIS MATTER. THEY REQUIRE THAT ALL PERSONS DETAINED ARBITRARILY AND ON POLITICAL GROUNDS SHOULD BE RELEASED AND THE GOVERNOR HAS TAKEN APPROPRIATE ACTION BY RELEASING ALL THOSE FORMERLY DETAINED INSIDE RHODESIA UNDER MINISTERIAL ORDERS. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT YOU WILL FEEL ABLE TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE WITH MR MUGABE TO SECURE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL THOSE HELD BY HIM. AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD URGE UPON HIM THE NEED FOR ZANLA FORCES TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE STRICTLY.

WE KNEW THAT THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO INDEPENDENCE IN RHODESIA WOULD BE A TENSE AND DIFFICULT TIME. WE HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND WILL INEVITABLY FACE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES. BUT I HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT STRIKING PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE GOVERNOR'S ADMINISTRATION OF RHODESIA DURING THE PAST FIVE WEEKS. LEGALITY HAS BEEN RESTORED, THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING AND CASUALTIES DRASTICALLY REDUCED AND OVER 20,000 MEMBERS OF THE PF FORCES HAVE ASSEMBLED PEACEFULLY. RESTRICTIONS ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN LIFTED AND ARRANGEMENTS SET IN TRAIN FOR THE ELECTIONS. AS YOU KNOW, MR NKOMO HAS RETURNED TO SALISBURY TOGETHER WITH THE WHOLE OF ZAPU'S LEADERSHIP AND MANY LEADING MEMBERS OF ZANU HAVE ALSO NOW GONE HOME. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS NORMALISING RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA'S NEIGHBOURS AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN HAND FOR THE

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EARLY RETURN OF REFUGEES. WITHIN RHODESIA, RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN WIDELY RELAXED, AND AN AMNESTY DECLARED. THESE ARE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS WHEN CONTRASTED WITH THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO OR WHICH WOULD HAVE PREVAILED HAD WE NOT SUCCEEDED AT LANCASTER HOUSE.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ON A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY. MORE THAN ANYONE, WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN INSISTING THAT ALL PARTIES SHOULD OBSERVE THE AGREEMENTS SCRUPULOUSLY AND WE LOOK FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR FRIENDS IN ENSURING THAT THIS IS SO. YOU CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR GOOD FAITH AND IMPARTIALITY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME AND I FEEL SURE THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT AND ADVICE.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AGAIN IF YOU FEEL CONCERNED. WE ARE APPROACHING THE END OF A GREAT ENTERPRISE, AND ARE DETERMINED TO SEE IT THROUGH TO A JUST AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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PLANNING STAFF

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LEGAL ADVISERS

(MR FREELAND)

(MR FIFOOT)

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PS

PS/SIR I GILMOUR

PS/MR LUCE

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR MARTEN

PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND

MR HANNAY

LORD N G LENNOX

MISS BROWN

MR DAY

MR FERGUSON

MR ASPIN

MR MILLS

CPO

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION RHODESIA POLICY

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