



CONFIDENTIAL

Zimbabwe

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L. Pym

Prime Minister

[Signature] - 17/6

FCS/80/103

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

Military Assistance for Zimbabwe

1. Thank you for your letter of 3 June. I am most grateful for your agreement to make up to £2 million available from the contingency reserve towards the cost of the military assistance we are now agreed should be provided for Zimbabwe in 1980/81.
2. I note that this is subject to Francis Pym confirming that he is able to provide the personnel recommended by General Fursdon, and on the understanding that all the options for offsetting savings remain open for consideration later this year.
3. On the first point, I now understand that by some adjustment of the phasing the Ministry of Defence may after all be able to meet the full requirement for loan service personnel. We are therefore proceeding on this basis. Francis Pym has already said that he sees little difficulty in providing the other forms of assistance recommended by General Fursdon.
4. As for your second caveat, I am, of course, very conscious of the need for economy and will do all I can to ensure that expenditure is kept to the minimum. But I think it may be very difficult indeed for me to find any offsetting savings on my Vote this year.
5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Defence Secretary, other members of OD Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

C

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
17 June 1980

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