

SUBJECT

Am has seen in Washington

Master  
Ops

GR 550  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 251800Z  
FM SALISBURY 251620Z FEB 81  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 126 OF 25 FEBRUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON  
INFO PRIORITY ODA.

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.34/81

FOLLOWING FOR PS/S OF S

MY TEL NO 124 : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON : AID FOR ZIMBABWE.

1. I HAVE THIS EVENING RECEIVED FOR TELEGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION THE TEXT OF A LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY FROM MUGABE TO THE PRIME MINISTER (ORIGINAL VIA ZIMBABWE HC IN LONDON) IT READS :

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

AS WE START OUR FINAL PREPARATIONS FO THE ZIMBABWE DONORS CONFERENCE AND IN VIEW OF YOUR IMPENDING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO EMPHASISE THE LEADING ROLE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY IF THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE A SUCESS.

THE ZIMBABWE CONFERENCE ON RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT HAS ITS ORIGINS IN THE LANCASTER HOUSE CONFERENCE. THE MOBILISATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ZIMBABWE WAS FORSEEN AS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE THE REQUIRED RESOURCES FOR LAND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WERE BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF THE NEW ZIMBABWE, OF BRITAIN OR ANY SINGLE COUNTRY.

COMPARED WITH THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE BIRTH OF OUR NEW NATION AND MY GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RECONCILIATION, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SPECIFIC FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF ITS LIFE HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING. IT IS NOT GENERALLY APPRECIATED THAT WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A ONE-TIME MASSIVE INJECTION OF RESOURCES INTO OUR ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY FOR LAND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS FOR RECONSTRUCTION. MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILITY IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION AND I THINK THAT IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE HAS ACHIEVED MUCH IN THIS DIRECTION. BUT THERE IS A NEED FOPUR CONSOLIDATION AND RAPID DEVELOPMENT - A PROCESS WHICH CANNOT BE CARRIED THROUGH UNLESS EARLY STRIDES ARE MADE TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCES OF THE PAST AND TO REHABILITATE THE ECONOMY, WHICH, I BELIEVE, HAS ALL THE POTENTIAL FOR RAPID AND SUSTAINED GROWTH, TO THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE JN ZIMBABWE AND IN THE REGION.

CONFIDENTIAL

/TO



CONFIDENTIAL

TO MOBILISE SUPPORT FOR THE DONORS CONFERENCE, REPRESENTATIVES OF MY GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN OR WILL IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TEN DAYS BE IN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE PRINCIPAL DONOR COUNTRIES. IT IS VITAL, I THINK, FOR THESE CONTACTS TO BE REINFORCED BY STRENUOUS LOBBYING BY YOUR GOVERNMENT.

SUCH EFFORTS WILL BE IN LINE WITH LORD CARRINGTON'S STATEMENT AT LANCASTER HOUSE AND THE STRONG LEAD THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN IN ALL MATTERS AFFECTING ZIMBABWE SINCE BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA IN 1979.

THE POSITION OF THE NEW UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION GIVES ME PARTICULAR CAUSE FOR CONCERN. REPRESENTATIVES OF MY GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY BEEN TO WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH THE DONORS CONFERENCE. UNDERSTANDABLY PERHAPS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CLEAR POLICY STATEMENT, BUT WHAT LITTLE HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TO AID, SUGGESTS THAT A HARD LINE WILL BE TAKEN. IF APPLIED TO ZIMBABWE, SUCH A POLICY WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND PREJUDICE THE STABILITY OF THE REGION. I TRUST, THEREFORE, THAT WHEN YOU ARE IN WASHINGTON YOU WILL BE ABLE TO USE YOUR NOT INCONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE TO CONVINCING THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT SHARES WITH YOU RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING SUPPORT AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE MAKING A FURTHER MAJOR COMMITMENT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE.

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

YOURS SINCERELY,

R G MUGABE

ENDSIO

BYATT

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

LIMITED  
C AF D  
ERD  
NAD  
INFORMATION D  
NEWS D  
PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/MR MARTEN  
PS/PUS  
MR DAY  
SIR L ALLINSON  
LORD BRIDGES  
MR EVANS

COPIES TO:-  
SIR P PRESTON ODA  
MR LYNCH ODA  
MR KIRBY ODA

CONFIDENTIAL