

OPs

a Matter + Subject

Zimbabwe: relations Pt 3

Message

GRS 170  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 010630Z  
FM F C O 312050Z AUG 83  
TO IMMEDIATE HARARE  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 428 OF 31 AUGUST  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**PRIME MINISTER'S**

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No. 128A/83**

MIPT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO  
MUGABE  
BEGINS

I HAVE HEARD THAT THE ~~NEW~~ OFFICERS ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT  
WITH THE SABOTAGE OF ZIMBABWE AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT AT THORNHILL  
AIR BASE HAVE BEEN ACQUITTED BY THE COURT. WHEN WE MET IN  
JUNE WE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER ON AN ENTIRELY PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. BECAUSE A NUMBER OF THE DEFENDANTS HOLD  
JOINT BRITISH AND ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALITY WE HAVE A SPECIAL  
INTEREST IN THEIR FATE. I RECOGNISE THAT THE DECISION ABOUT  
WHAT SHOULD NOW BE DONE IS ONE FOR YOU ALONE, BUT I URGE YOU,  
IN THE INTERESTS OF ZIMBABWE'S REPUTATION FOR UPHOLDING THE  
PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE THAT THE VERDICT OF THE COURT SHOULD BE  
ACCEPTED AND THAT THE OFFICERS SHOULD NOW BE RELEASED. ANY  
OTHER COURSE WOULD NOT ONLY HARM THE REPUTATION OF ZIMBABWE  
BUT COULD HAVE VERY DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES  
AND FOR THE IDEALS WHICH I BELIEVE WE BOTH SHARE.  
ENDS

HOWE

LIMITED  
CAFD  
NEWS  
ECD (E)  
EAD  
WAD  
NAD  
RID  
SAFD  
LEGAL ADVISERS (MR. ANDERSON)  
PUSD  
PS  
PS/PUS  
PS/MR RIFKIND  
SIR J BULLARD  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR SQUIRE

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