FILE

JR

SUBJECT

cc FCO

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 10/82

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

18 January 1982

cc. Master set

Dear Mr. Mugabe.

I was very sorry to miss you on your recent visit to London. I look forward to your visit in May and I very much hope that your wife will by then be well enough to accompany you.

I know that Lord Carrington was very pleased to have the opportunity of a discussion with you last week; and I understand that he was able to go over in some detail with you the points which you raised in your letter to me of 15 December. I know that land resettlement is a top priority for you. As I said in my earlier letter, this is why we have undertaken to provide thirty million pounds to meet almost 50 per cent of the cost of the targets you had set at the highly successful Donors Conference last March. As you will appreciate, we cannot embark on further commitments when so little (only one-and-a-half million pounds sterling) of the thirty million pounds already allocated to resettlement has been spent. I know you want to get on with spending the rest of this money effectively and we will continue to do everything we can to assist in this objective. As your Government itself recognised at the Conference, no single donor can provide all Zimbabwe's needs. It is essential that all donor countries should play their part.

On students, I have one point to add to my earlier letter. Your Ministry of Economic Planning has now formally requested that we use £1.7 million of the £75 million pledged at

/Independence

Independence to support, over the next three years, some 50-70 Zimbabwe students at present in Britain. I am happy to tell you that we can accept this request.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable R.G. Mugabe

FILE

Zimbabwe.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 January 1982

Letter from the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe

Thank you for your letter of 15 January on the subject of British aid for land resettlement in Zimbabwe and assistance for Zimbabwe students. I enclose a reply from the Prime Minister to Mr. Mugabe and would be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

A. J. COLES

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister.

If you are content with this answer, you may care to sign the letter back to Mr Mugabe.

MTW
15/1/82.

3.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 January 1982

Dear John,

Letter from the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe

Under cover of your note of 29 December you forwarded a letter from Mr Mugabe to the Prime Minister repeating the request he made at the CHOGM for more British aid for land resettlement and assistance for Zimbabwe students. This was in reply to the Prime Minister's letter of 2 November (copy enclosed).

In coming back again on the question of land resettlement, Mr Mugabe is reiterating his contention that Britain has not offered to do enough in this area and implicitly that it remains a British responsibility to provide funds to solve the land problem. Both publicly and privately we have always emphasised that we do not accept such a responsibility.

The British aid currently on offer to the Zimbabwe Government for resettlement amounts to £30 million: this represents almost 50% of the cost of the programme put forward by the Zimbabwe Government at the Donors Conference last year. So far only some £1.5m of our £30 million has been claimed by the Zimbabweans. This was pointed out to Mr Mugabe by Lord Carrington when they met last week. It may well have been the first time he had been told this.

Mr Mugabe's repeated insistence on the urgency and extent of the problem reflects increasing pressure on him to satisfy African demands for land. The Zimbabwe Government has not been able to implement the original schemes as quickly as it would have wished, largely because they require very careful planning and implementation. This has resulted in a growing squatter problem which the Zimbabwe Government are tackling through a separate 'accelerated' scheme of their own in which we are not involved. The danger is that the Zimbabwe Government will have to widen the original scheme, to become a much more extensive and expensive operation. In these circumstances it is important that we maintain the line that land resettlement cannot be an exclusively British responsibility.

With regard to the question of financial support for Zimbabwe students, we can now tell Mr Mugabe that we have a formal request from the Zimbabwe Ministry of Economic Planning for £1.7 million of the £75 million aid pledged at Independence to be used for further training awards. We are content to accept this proposal.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq

10 Downing St

Please type for PM's Box

PSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

TO:

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:
DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO HON R G MUGABE, PRIME MINISTER OF ZIMBABWE

I was very sorry to miss you on your recent visit to London. I look forward to your visit in May and I very much hope that your wife will by then be well enough to accompany you.

I know that Lord Carrington was very pleased to have the opportunity of a discussion with you last week; and I understand that he was able to go over in some detail with you the points which you raised in your letter to me of 15 December. I know that land resettlement is a top priority for you. As I said in my earlier letter, this is why we have undertaken to provide thirty million pounds to meet almost 50% of the cost of the targets you had set at the highly successful Donors Conference last March. As you will appreciate, we cannot embark on further commitments when so little (only one and a half million pounds sterling) of the thirty million pounds already allocated to resettlement has been spent. I know you want to get on with spending the rest of this money effectively and we will continue to do everything we can to assist in this objective. As your Government itself recognised at the Conference, no single donor can provide all Zimbabwe's needs. It is essential that all donor countries should play their part.

/On

Enclosures—flag(s).....

On students, I have one point to add to my earlier letter. Your Ministry of Economic Planning has now formally requested that we use £1.7 million of the £75 million pledged at Independence to support, over the next three years, some 50-70 Zimbabwe students at present in Britain. I am happy to tell you that we can accept this request.

Mr. Sands Smith

for onward transmission
3.11.81

cc also: PS/Mr Mates
PS/Mr Luce
Mr Day
Mr Lynch OBE

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 November 1981

Rhodesia

My dear Prime Minister,

I was delighted to have the opportunity for such a good talk while we were in Melbourne. As a result of our conversation I have every confidence that the difficulties that you face - formidable though some of them may be - will be successfully overcome. As you know, over the year and a half since independence we have endeavoured to give you all the assistance within our power, not only as far as the economy is concerned with our development aid programme, but also in dealing with the first of the problems you mentioned to me, the integration of the Army.

I promised to look into two particular questions you raised with me, progress on land resettlement and fees for students from Zimbabwe in the United Kingdom. On the first of these, you asked if we could not increase the allocation of £20 million for land transfer and resettlement which formed part of the total offer of development aid which we made at the time of independence. I realise how important this is to you. It was for this reason that at the Aid Donors' Conference in Salisbury last March Lord Soames made a further commitment of £10 million to a second land resettlement scheme. We understood that, together with the first scheme, this constituted the full extent of the Zimbabwe Government's plans in this extremely important sphere for the next three years. I hope you will consider that a total of £30 million, representing almost 50 per cent of the estimated total cost of land resettlement schemes over the first few years of independence, is a generous response, especially in view of the limitations on our development aid expenditure which have regrettably had to be made for the time being as part of our general economic strategy. Moreover, I understand that there might be some limit to the speed at which land resettlement can be accomplished.

/ I am

I am of course aware, not least from my conversations in Melbourne, that our decision to charge full fees to many overseas students has caused disquiet, especially in Commonwealth countries. We have carefully considered whether we could not make some exceptions to our present rules, but I fear that any relaxation would inevitably become widespread and would undermine the basis of what we believe to be a necessary policy. However, in certain respects, Zimbabwe is already more favoured than others. We have financed very large numbers of Zimbabwean students over the years from our aid programme (in fact, the training allocation for Zimbabwe has been the largest of all) and we are continuing to do so, albeit on a lesser scale. At the Aid Donors' Conference in Salisbury in March, Lord Soames announced an addition of £5 million for Zimbabwean students in Britain who would qualify for tertiary education, either in the United Kingdom or at the University of Salisbury, and he also indicated to your Minister of Education that your Government could, if they wished, use some of the British aid announced at independence to finance additional students to pass to higher level studies.

I hope you will agree that the very substantial assistance that we have already offered will make a significant contribution in both the highly important areas which you mentioned to me. The assistance we have pledged ourselves to provide to Zimbabwe immediately makes this one of our biggest aid programmes in Africa and demonstrates the importance we attach to helping Zimbabwe in the early years of independence.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. R. G. Mugabe

file

Zimbabwe

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 December 1981

You will recall that in the margins of the CHOGM, Mr. Mugabe raised with the Prime Minister the questions of aid for land resettlement and fees for Zimbabwe students in the UK. The Prime Minister replied to Mr. Mugabe following the Conference in a letter dated 2 November.

Mr. Mugabe has now written again repeating his plea for urgent aid (attached). I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send by 14 January.

W. F. S. RICKETT

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

T.176A/81

SUBJECT

Copied to Master/Ops sets.

PRIME MINISTER

SALISBURY

15 December, 1981.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.176A/81

Dear Prime Minister,

(T.153/81) - Pt 1

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd November, 1981.

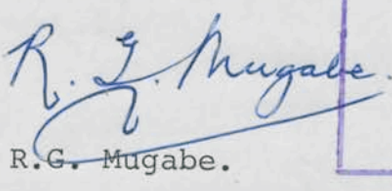
I too recall the very important and useful discussion we had in Melbourne during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, the main part of which was focused on our requirements for further external assistance in relation to our immediate post-war reconstruction and development programmes. As I indicated to you on that occasion, it is my Government's very strong belief that the United Kingdom can, and should, do more to render the necessary assistance to us particularly in regard to our land purchase and resettlement programme and financial support to Zimbabwean students studying in the United Kingdom.

Whilst we naturally are very appreciative of the aid we have to date received from Her Majesty's Government, I must, however, emphasise again that our requirements are most urgent indeed and that the assistance so far received from the United Kingdom and other friendly countries regrettably falls short of these requirements. The land purchase and resettlement programme in particular is one concerning which we feel Britain should be more understanding and helpful. Needless to

say that our own people, the bulk of whom are peasants whose "traditionally" meagre resources were wiped out during the war, do not have the means to acquire the land they need for settlement and agricultural purposes. It is in light of this stark fact that I was impelled to speak to you in the manner I did in Melbourne. If the situation has changed at all in the last two months it is in respect of its having become more critical and urgent.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



R.G. Mugabe.
Prime Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The Rt. Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London.

RGM/gm.