

Zimbabwe <sup>32</sup>

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cc: FCO  
Crest

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 June 1982

Dear Nicholas,

Thank you for your letter of 26 May enclosing one from Mr. Denis Walker.

We are indeed aware of the case of the York brothers who, like Mr. Stuttaford, are Zimbabwe nationals. But as I explained in my letter to you of 4 May, we are not in a position to make formal representations on their behalf. Nevertheless, despite Mr. Walker's evident doubts, I can assure you that the British Government is concerned about people being detained for prolonged periods without trial, and the Zimbabweans are well aware of our concern.

I note, incidentally, that the general question of detainees was not raised during Mr. Mugabe's meeting with the Anglo/Zimbabwe Parliamentary Group. However, you will probably know that at a later stage in his visit Mr. Mugabe repeated assurances that those currently detained will either be released or brought to trial, and I am sure he must know of the importance which you and other colleagues attach to this matter.

Yours ever

Nayant

Nicholas Winterton, Esq., MP.

32

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Type for PM  
submit with this letter.  
u/c.

8 June, 1982

MAJ  
Dear Muir,

Thank you for your letter of 28 May enclosing correspondence from Nicholas Winterton, MP about Zimbabwe.

/ I enclose a draft reply to Mr Winterton from the Prime  
/ Minister. A copy of the Prime Minister's earlier letter, to  
which Mr Walker refers, is also enclosed.

Our understanding of the York case is much as Mr Walker has described it. The parents-in-law of one of the brothers have been in touch with our High Commission in Harare and also called on Central African Department to explain the background to the case. They accept completely that, because the Yorks are Zimbabwe nationals, we cannot intervene.

As you know, the Stuttaford case was not raised during Mr Mugabe's visit. We have, however, avoided saying so in the draft reply to Mr Winterton since he would then be likely to question the true extent of the Government's concern about Stuttaford's detention.

The meeting in the Grand Committee Room to which Mr Winterton refers was that of the Anglo/Zimbabwe Parliamentary Group. FCO Ministers drew attention to this gathering in advance for the benefit of one or two MP's (notably Sir B Braine and Mr Tom King) who have been in regular correspondence with us about detainees in Zimbabwe. But none of them chose to use the opportunity to raise the subject directly with Mr Mugabe.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

M Pattison Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

DRAFT: ~~XXXX~~ minute/letter/~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Nicholas Winterton Esq, MP  
House of Commons

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 26 May enclosing one from Mr Denis Walker.

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

28 May 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter of 26 May.

I will place your letter before the Prime Minister and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M A PATTISON

N.R. Winterton, Esq., M.P.

N. WINTERTON MP  
(Dennis Walker)

10/6

28 May 1982

I enclose a further letter from Mr. Nicholas Winterton, M.P. about Zimbabwe. I should be grateful for a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature by Thursday 10 June.

M A PATTISON

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JH

NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON, M.P.  
(Macclesfield)

cc IG. h 28



26th May 1982

NRW/cmh

Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Dear Margaret,*

I enclose correspondence which I have received from Mr Denis Walker, and would ask you to let me have a response which I could forward to him.

I remain concerned about the situation which is developing in Zimbabwe, not least the detention of Mr Wally Stuttaford MP and others by Mr Mugabe's government.

I must tell you that I attended the meeting which Mr Mugabe addressed in the Grand Committee Room last Wednesday, and my concern for what is happening in his country was made more acute by what he said. I am aware that he met you and Foreign Office Ministers, and I am wondering whether any request was made to him for Mr Stuttaford to be brought to trial without delay, although if the Yorks' case is anything to go by, being found innocent in Zimbabwe currently is no guarantee of freedom.

I would be obliged if you would comment on the contents of the letter from the Zimbabwe Member of Parliament who, fearing imprisonment, dare not return to his own country. I look forward to an early response.

*N. R. Winterton*  
*Charles*

P.O. Box 362,  
GERMISTON,  
Transvaal,  
South Africa.  
17th May, 1982.

Nicholas R. Winterton, M.P.  
Room 15,  
Second Floor,  
Norman Shaw North Building,  
Victoria Embankment,  
LONDON SW1.

Dear Nicholas,

Thank you for the copy letter you have received from the Prime Minister.

I wonder if you are aware of the circumstances surrounding the York brothers who have been held in detention since the 28th January 1982, for allegedly possessing arms of war. Early this month they were brought to trial as indicated by the Prime Minister's letter and found not guilty, and walked out of court free men.

The next day they they were again picked up by the Police and detained indefinitely under the Emergency Powers.

I understand that Robert Mugabe is coming to Europe on 24th of this month and I have heard today that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is preparing to see him again. If it is true that the Foreign Office is still taking a close interest in developments in Zimbabwe, and that it is believed that the British opinion is still of value there, I believe it is high time that somebody spoke out loud and clear in total disapproval of what is going on in respect to the holding of innocent people in custody without trial.

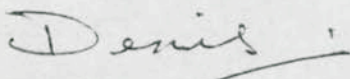
In respect to the Yorks court case, quoting from the Chronicle, 5th May, 1982:

"The Magistrate said there were serious inconsistencies in the Police witnesses as to what transpired during the interrogation. The probabilities favoured the defence rather than the State. The State has failed to prove its case and accordingly, this statement will not be admitted as evidence". He also said there was no evidence that the accused were involved in the burial of arms or the knowledge that they were there, etc".

I would be most grateful if you would bring this latest development to the attention of the Prime Minister. I want you to know that people I have met very recently from Zimbabwe do not believe that without the matter being taken up strongly from outside of Zimbabwe, that Wally Stuttaford will ever again be a free man and certainly this latest developments surrounding the York brothers confirms that view.

Have you yet been able to raise the matter on the adjournment? I hope this latest information will be of assistance to you should it arrive in time. Thank you for your concern and interest. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



W.D. Walker, M.P.

cap 10 (87)



10 DOWNING STREET

JP 015/1

N Godson  
da. H.G. 6/5

4 May, 1982

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Nicholas.

(75)

Thank you for your letter of 15 April enclosing one from Father Lewis asking the British Government to intercede on behalf of Mr Stuttaford who is detained in Zimbabwe.

I fully understand and sympathise with your and Father Lewis' concern about Mr Stuttaford. It is indeed an unfortunate case. As I explained in answer to a Question from Patrick Wall on 2 March (Col.86), Mr Stuttaford is a Zimbabwean citizen and as such we have no authority to intervene on his behalf. We understand that Mr Stuttaford has access to a lawyer and that he has also been visited by his wife and family.

Of course we continue to take a close interest in developments in Zimbabwe and I believe that our opinions are still valued there. It was in this spirit that Peter Carrington took the opportunity of his visit in February to mention to Zimbabwean ministers the concern which is felt in this country and elsewhere about the detention without trial of Mr Stuttaford and others in Zimbabwe. As I told you in my letter of 10 March, Mr Mugabe has subsequently given assurances that all those detained will either be released or brought to trial as soon as possible. It is encouraging to know that a number of whites who were arrested at about the same time as Mr Stuttaford have since appeared in court. Naturally we hope that his case will soon be resolved too.

Yours ever

Nicholas Winterton, Esq, M.P.,



CONFIDENTIAL

GR 80  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM SALISBURY 030740Z MAR 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 131 OF 3 MARCH.

YOUR TELNO 128 : SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT.

1. MUGABE DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S MENTION OF STUTTAFORD NOR DID HE GIVE ANY EXPLICIT ASSURANCE THAT DETAINED WHITES WOULD SOON BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. IN FACT WE UNDERSTAND STUTTAOFRD IS TO APPEAR IN COURT IN MID-MARCH AND SEVERAL OF THE BERTRAND GROUP (OUR TELNO 103) APPEARED BEFORE A COURT FOR INDICTMENT ON 24 FEBRUARY.

BYATT

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