



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 October 1982

*Private and Confidential.*

*Dear Alan*

You will recall that you wrote to me in May about Sir Roy Welensky's blocked funds in Zimbabwe, and that I said that we would raise the matter with the Zimbabweans.

Our High Commissioner in Harare has discussed Sir Roy's case with the Zimbabwean Finance Minister, and with the senior official in his Ministry. It seems that they have already been treating Sir Roy's case very much as a special one. I understand that, in addition to the normal allowances permitted under Zimbabwe's exchange controls, Sir Roy has been allowed to withdraw the capital from a substantial trust fund (some £70,000) as well as certain sums to cover medical expenses. However, Zimbabwe's overall foreign exchange position is still very tight and there are many other elderly people who face similar difficulties but whose cases have not been treated as generously. In the circumstances, the Zimbabweans would find it very difficult indeed to agree to the release of the balance of Sir Roy's assets in a single payment. Nevertheless, they have said that although they can give no advance commitments, they would be prepared to consider sympathetically any requests Sir Roy might make to transfer funds to cover particular expenses he may incur, such as further medical fees. I am sure that his bank will be familiar with the procedures for doing this, but I gather that any such application should be submitted in the first instance to the Reserve Bank. If, for any reason, it is rejected by the exchange control authorities, I understand that there is provision for an appeal direct to the Minister of Finance.

/ I am sorry I cannot

889



I am sorry I cannot be more encouraging. It is, however, clear that the Zimbabweans have been and are willing to help Roy as much as possible; I very much doubt whether further pressure from us would elicit a more favourable response.

Y  
Lansdown

Raymond

---

FROM: VISCOUNT BOYD, C.H., D.J.

INCE CASTLE,  
SALTASH,  
CORNWALL. PL12 4RA  
TEL: 075 55 2274  
SALTASH 2274

Prime Minister Rhodes (2)

I told Lord Boyd that I was sure you would not mind him showing the letter to Roy Welensky.

2. Lord Boyd is "very touched" that you found time to deal with the matter

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

4th October 1982

MR RB A.S.C. 8/10

Dear Margaret -

Many thanks for your letter of the 1st October concerning Sir Roy Welensky's blocked funds in Zimbabwe.

I am very grateful for the personal trouble you have taken.

Though your letter was marked Private and Confidential I am assuming that I can show it to Roy and I hope that this is alright.

*Wm  
Mar*

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,



Rhodesia

Future of Sir Roy Welensky

October 1979

PRIME MINISTER

You asked whether we might mention the amount of Sir Roy Welensky's trust fund in the letter to Lord Boyd. There is no special reason why we should not do so but since the letter is to Lord Boyd rather than Sir Roy, there may be a case for omitting the precise figure. Two versions of the first page are attached for your choice.

---

17

30 September 1982





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

*I think it would be better to refer to him as Sir Roy*

You will recall that you wrote to me in May about Roy Welensky's blocked funds in Zimbabwe, and that I said that we would raise the matter with the Zimbabweans.

Our High Commissioner in Harare has discussed Roy's case with the Zimbabwean Finance Minister, and with the senior official in his Ministry. It seems that they have already been treating Roy's case very much as a special one. I understand that, in addition to the normal allowances permitted under Zimbabwe's exchange controls, Roy has been allowed to withdraw the capital from a substantial trust fund <sup>Sw</sup> (some £12,000) as well as certain sums to cover medical expenses. However, Zimbabwe's overall foreign exchange position is still very tight and there are many other elderly people who face similar difficulties but whose cases have not been treated as generously. In the circumstances, the Zimbabweans would find it very difficult indeed to agree to the release of the balance of Roy's assets in a single payment. Nevertheless, they have said that although they can give no advance commitments, they would be prepared to consider sympathetically any requests Roy might make to transfer funds to cover particular expenses he may incur, such as further medical fees. I am sure that Roy's bank <sup>Sw</sup> will be familiar with the procedures for doing this, but I gather that any such application should be submitted in the first instance to the Reserve Bank. If, for any reason, it is rejected by the exchange control authorities, I understand that there is provision for an appeal direct to the Minister of Finance.

*eli*

/I am



Prime Minister:

*Yes - check  
will mean about  
the amount of  
the trust funds*

You will recall that Lord Boyd wrote to you FUS A about Sir Roy Welensky's blocked funds. The FCO and Sir Robert think that a formal approach to Mr Mugabe would be unproductive and recommended you to write as in the attached draft

Ref. A09598

MR FLESHER

You asked me to comment on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office letter of <sup>TF</sup> 29/9 20th September about the letter which Lord Boyd of Merton sent to the Prime Minister in May about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position.

2. It is clear from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office letter that the British High Commissioner in Harare has discussed the position with the Zimbabwe Minister of Finance and his Permanent Secretary. For whatever reason - apparently partly by mistake - the Zimbabweans have released quite a lot of Sir Roy Welensky's money; in particular, they have released a trust fund of about £70,000 which he had set up in favour of his children. It looks as if he may not have known about that when he wrote his letter of 14th May.

3. The question for the Prime Minister is whether to accept the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice and write to Lord Boyd as proposed; or to make a direct approach to Mr Mugabe, as she said that she would be perfectly ready to do.

4. I would judge that it is very unlikely that the Government of Zimbabwe will feel able to treat Sir Roy more generously, and that any formal approach to Mr Mugabe would probably be met with a polite and possibly even regretful refusal to be more generous in releasing funds.

5. It might be more productive if the Prime Minister were to speak privately to Mr Mugabe about this next time she sees him: no doubt he will be in London again before very long.

6. If the Prime Minister decides to proceed accordingly, she will wish to write to Lord Boyd, as proposed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*REA*

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28th September 1982



CONFIDENTIAL

✓RH

Rhodesia



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 September 1982

Dear Tim,

Lord Boyd forwarded a letter to the Prime Minister in May from Sir Roy Welensky, about his blocked funds in Zimbabwe. In her reply of 28 June, the Prime Minister told Lord Boyd that we would take up the matter with the Zimbabwean authorities.

Our High Commissioner in Harare has discussed the case with the Zimbabwean Minister of Finance and his Permanent Secretary. It appears that the Zimbabweans have already shown a measure of flexibility over Sir Roy Welensky's case. In addition to the normal foreign exchange allowances, he has been granted certain sums to cover medical expenses, as well as the transfer of a substantial trust fund, worth in the region of Z\$100,000 (approximately £70,000), which he had set up in favour of his children. Although permission for this transfer had apparently been given by mistake, the Zimbabweans decided to let it stand. The Zimbabweans now consider that, in the circumstances, it would be unfair to make further general concessions in Sir Roy's case, whilst there are many other elderly people whose foreign exchange allowances are being kept within the normal limits. They are, however, prepared to consider specific requests from Sir Roy, which might merit exceptional treatment, to transfer funds to cover particular expenses he may incur.

The High Commissioner believes, and we share his opinion, that in view of the Zimbabweans' relatively generous attitude towards Sir Roy so far, Zimbabwe's continuing tight foreign exchange position, and the number of other similarly deserving cases of which we are aware, it would be invidious and almost certainly unproductive to

/press

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL



press the Zimbabwe Government to give overall agreement to release the balance of Sir Roy's assets.

/ I attach a further draft letter to Lord Boyd explaining the position.

*Yours ever*  
*J E Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



Rhodesia, Oct 49  
Future of Roy Welensky





Rhodesia

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 June 1982

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May enclosing one from Roy Welensky about his blocked funds in Zimbabwe.

We are taking the matter up direct with the Zimbabwe Government and hope they will recognise this as a very special case.

Yours ever

Raymond

---

The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Boyd of Merton, C.H., D.L.

da



*Mr Whitmore  
No 10 Downing St.*

GR 168  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DEDIP  
FM HARARE 241410Z JUN 82  
TO PRIORITY F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 341 OF 24 JUNE

*f-a  
25  
f-a.*

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR SIR L ALLINSON

MY TELNO 336: BLOCKED FUNDS

PLEASE IGNORE TUR. I SEIZED AN OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO PUT THE CASE TO CHIDZERO SAYING THAT "IT WAS ONE WHICH HAD COME TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENTION AND ABOUT WHICH SHE HOPED SOMETHING COULD BE DONE" AND ALSO THAT "I HAD BEEN ASKED TO RAISE IT WITH HIM PERSONALLY" BUT WITHOUT MAKING IT EXPLICITLY A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM MRS THATCHER. HE RESPONDED WELL. HE SAID THERE ARE VARIOUS PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT (THOUGH SUCCESS IS NOT OF COURSE ASSURED). HE WOULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE PERSON IN QUESTION HAD MADE ANY REQUEST AND IF SO WHAT HAPPENED TO IT. HE WOULD GET BACK TO ME TO ADVISE WHAT THE PERSON IN QUESTION SHOULD BEST DO NEXT. I SHALL REPORT FURTHER WHEN HE DOES.

2. PLEASE ASK PS/PUS TO IGNORE MY TELNO 337 TO HIM.

BYATT

LIMITED  
HD/C AF D  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
SIR L ALLINSON

COPIES TO:-  
MR WHITMORE NO 10 DOWNING ST. ✓

CONFIDENTIAL



Mr Whitmore  
No 10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL

GR 100

CONFIDENTIAL

DEDIP

FM HARARE 231322Z JUN 82

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 336 OF 23 JUNE.

*[Handwritten signature]*

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR SIR L ALLINSON.

FCO TELNO 246 : BLOCKED FUNDS.

1. I THINK THAT CHIDZERO IS THE RIGHT POINT OF ENTRY AND I SHALL TAKE ANY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS WITH HIM. I JUDGE THAT THERE WOULD BE MOST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING A RESULT IF I WERE TO VARY THE LINE IN THE LATTER PART OF PARA 3 OF TUR TO MAKE THIS A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM THE PRIME MINISTER FOR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. I TAKE IT THAT WOULD BE IN ORDER.

BYATT

LIMITED  
HD/C AF D  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
PS/PUS  
SIR L ALLINSON  
SIR J LEAHY

COPIES TO:

MR WHITMORE 10 DOWNING ST

*MR 250  
p.a.*

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister.

This is about getting Sir Roy Welensky's money out of Zimbabwe. Are you contact for the Hyfi Commission to put this to the Zimbabweans as a personal request from you (you said earlier that you were prepared to send a personal message to Mr Mugabe)?

*[Handwritten initials]*

*tel 240*



CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 June 1982

*Type letter as enclosed.*

*A. J. C. 24/6.*

*Dear John,*

Clive Whitmore wrote on 14 June enclosing correspondence about Sir Roy Welensky. Sir Roy wrote to Lord Carrington last year about the general problem of Zimbabwe's exchange controls and I enclose a copy of the reply which was sent.

In the light of your letter we have asked our High Commissioner in Harare to discuss Sir Roy's case on a personal basis with the Zimbabwean Minister for Finance and we shall of course let you know the outcome. Meanwhile I attach a draft reply which the Prime Minister may wish to send to Lord Boyd.

*Yours ever,*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

The Rt Hon Viscount Boyd CH DL  
Ince Castle  
Saltash  
Cornwall PL11 4RA

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 25 May enclosing one from Roy Welensky about his blocked funds in Zimbabwe.

*This is a familiar problem. We have regularly brought up with*  
~~I am afraid that this problem is all too familiar to us and we regularly remind the Zimbabweans of~~  
 the difficulties which their exchange controls can cause people in this country.

The Zimbabweans have said that they will give sympathetic consideration to individual cases, <sup>so</sup> and we shall certainly see whether anything can be done to help Roy. <sup>↑</sup> From past experience, given Zimbabwe's continuing foreign exchange problems, we shall not find the going easy. But we shall do our best.

*It shall be in touch again.*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

*A. J. C. 21/6*

*and we were doing to*  
*The matter is being taken up now*



21 JUN 1962

121 374  
1962

4



*File*  
*Mr Whitmore*  
*NO 10*  
*Downy street*

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U

11350 - 1

PP HARARE

GRS 375

D E Y O U

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 211545Z JUN 82

TO PRIORITY HARARE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 246 OF 21 JUNE.

FOLLOWING STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER

BLOCKED FUNDS: SIR ROY WELENSKY

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, SIR ROY WELENSKY WROTE TO LORD CARRINGTON LAST YEAR ABOUT THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF ZIMBABWE'S EXCHANGE CONTROLS (UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM OUR FILES WHETHER THE CORRESPONDENCE WAS IN FACT COPIED TO YOU). THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOW ASKED WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF SIR ROY'S OWN BLOCKED FUNDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE AMOUNT TO SOME 30,000 ZIMBABWEAN DOLLARS IN CASH WITH THE POSSIBLE ADDITION OF ANOTHER 40,000 ZIMBABWEAN DOLLARS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SIR ROY ALSO HAS A NUMBER OF STOCKS AND SHARES HELD IN ZIMBABWE.
2. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD MAKE A DISCREET APPROACH TO CHIDZERO, PERHAPS DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING.
3. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGE CONTROLS WAS NOT RAISED DURING MR MUGABE'S VISIT, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN HERE, NOT LEAST IN PARLIAMENT, ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WHICH THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE CAUSING SOME PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY. WE REALISE THAT THERE IS LITTLE THE ZIMBABWEANS CAN DO UNTIL THEIR FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION IMPROVES, AND WE NOTE THAT THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME RELAXATION OF THE CONTROLS. WE HOPE, HOWEVER,

1

/THAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U



C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U

11350 - 1

THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO ESPECIALLY DESERVING CASES. ONE SUCH CASE IS THAT OF SIR ROY WELENSKY. IN CONSIDERING HIS CASE THE ZIMBABWEANS MAY WISH TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SIR ROY'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE FEDERATION: HE HAS BEEN IN POOR HEALTH FOR SOME TIME (HE SUFFERED A SEVERE CORONARY ATTACK IN 1978): AND DESPITE HIS AGE (75) HE HAS A YOUNG FAMILY TO SUPPORT. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS TAKING A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE ZIMBABWEANS WILL FEEL ABLE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN CASES SUCH AS SIR ROY'S.

4. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING THIS WITH MUGABE PERSONALLY IF AN OPPORTUNITY ARISES. BUT IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO ARE SIMILARLY AFFECTED BY ZIMBABWEAN EXCHANGE CONTROLS WE NATURALLY DO NOT WISH ANY PUBLICITY FOR THIS REQUEST BY-HMG FOR EXCEPTIONAL TREATMENT FOR SIR ROY.

PYM

LIMITED  
HD/C AF D  
PS  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
SIR L ALLINSON  
SIR J LEAHY

~~COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST.~~

COPIES TO:-  
MR WHITMORE NO 10 *Downing Street*

C O N F I D E N T I A L - D E Y O U





Partch  
file  
13  
A74

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SECRET AND PERSONAL

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A08629 about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position.

She has agreed that I should write to Mr Fall in the terms of the draft attached to your minute, though she has commented that she is quite prepared to write to Mr Mugabe herself if this proves necessary.

I enclose a copy of my letter to Mr Fall.

JWH.

14 June 1982





12  
file AH

cc CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 June 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Dear Ronni,

I enclose a copy of a letter which Lord Boyd of Merton has sent to the Prime Minister, together with a copy of a letter which he has had from Sir Roy Welensky about the latter's financial position. As you will see, Sir Roy Welensky, who is now resident in Britain, has substantial assets tied up in Zimbabwe which have been frozen by the Mugabe Government and on which he is only allowed to draw at a very limited level. It would be a considerable help to Sir Roy Welensky if the Mugabe Government were able to take some exceptional action over the unfreezing of his assets.

Your files will show that a special arrangement was made early in 1981 to provide Sir Roy Welensky with an interest-free loan to purchase a house in England and for this loan to be paid back over a period of sixteen years through an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 from Her Majesty's Government. While it should be possible to defend the house purchase arrangement if it ever became public, it would be very difficult to defend any subsequent payments, particularly if they became a continuing commitment. The Prime Minister does, however, think that we should do all that we can to try to persuade the Mugabe Government to make an exception of Sir Roy Welensky and to release his capital assets frozen in Zimbabwe. She would be grateful if the advice of our High Commission in Harare could be sought on what action might be taken to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Whitman.

Brian Fall Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



*Prime Minister. 11*

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. WHITMORE

*You but I am quite prepared to write to*

*write to the FCO in the form of the attached draft? MS 171*

*see page 'A'*

With his minute of 28th May to Mr. Wright, Mr. Pattison attached a copy of a letter from Lord Boyd of Merton to the Prime Minister about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position. Mr. Pattison asked for Cabinet Office advice before the matter is referred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He commented that the Prime Minister's reaction to Lord Boyd's letter was that we must both help Sir Roy Welensky further directly and also make a special case to Mr. Mugabe about the export of Sir Roy's financial assets from Zimbabwe.

2. I minuted Mr. Alexander at the beginning of 1981 about arrangements to provide financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky. At that time the proposal was to provide Sir Roy Welensky with somewhere to live in this country on terms that would be defensible, should the assistance become known. The Prime Minister accordingly agreed to arrangements, which both Sir Roy and Lady Welensky approved and validated in a signed agreement, and which provided for an interest-free loan of £80,000 for house purchase in the United Kingdom and an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 per annum which would be applied to the redemption of the loan during the lifetime of Sir Roy or Lady Welensky or for 16 years, whichever was shorter. The money was made over to the Welenskys in February 1981 after which they proceeded to a house purchase. (I take it that this is the house whose address is given in Sir Roy Welensky's letterhead). Sir Roy Welensky in due course wrote to the Prime Minister to thank you for these arrangements.

3. These arrangements provided Sir Roy Welensky with a substantial financial benefit in recognition of his past services. He was in effect enabled to acquire without cost to himself a house which at the end of 16 years would be the unencumbered property of himself or of Lady Welensky (so long as she continued to live in it).





12  
file AA

cc CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 June 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Dear Ronni,

I enclose a copy of a letter which Lord Boyd of Merton has sent to the Prime Minister, together with a copy of a letter which he has had from Sir Roy Welensky about the latter's financial position. As you will see, Sir Roy Welensky, who is now resident in Britain, has substantial assets tied up in Zimbabwe which have been frozen by the Mugabe Government and on which he is only allowed to draw at a very limited level. It would be a considerable help to Sir Roy Welensky if the Mugabe Government were able to take some exceptional action over the unfreezing of his assets.

Your files will show that a special arrangement was made early in 1981 to provide Sir Roy Welensky with an interest-free loan to purchase a house in England and for this loan to be paid back over a period of sixteen years through an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 from Her Majesty's Government. While it should be possible to defend the house purchase arrangement if it ever became public, it would be very difficult to defend any subsequent payments, particularly if they became a continuing commitment. The Prime Minister does, however, think that we should do all that we can to try to persuade the Mugabe Government to make an exception of Sir Roy Welensky and to release his capital assets frozen in Zimbabwe. She would be grateful if the advice of our High Commission in Harare could be sought on what action might be taken to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Whitman.

Brian Fall Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



*Prime Minister. 11*

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. WHITMORE

*You but I am quite prepared to write to the terms of the attached copy? This is the*

*see page 'A'*

With his minute of 28th May to Mr. Wright, Mr. Pattison attached a copy of a letter from Lord Boyd of Merton to the Prime Minister about Sir Roy Welensky's financial position. Mr. Pattison asked for Cabinet Office advice before the matter is referred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He commented that the Prime Minister's reaction to Lord Boyd's letter was that we must both help Sir Roy Welensky further directly and also make a special case to Mr. Mugabe about the export of Sir Roy's financial assets from Zimbabwe.

2. I minuted Mr. Alexander at the beginning of 1981 about arrangements to provide financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky. At that time the proposal was to provide Sir Roy Welensky with somewhere to live in this country on terms that would be defensible, should the assistance become known. The Prime Minister accordingly agreed to arrangements, which both Sir Roy and Lady Welensky approved and validated in a signed agreement, and which provided for an interest-free loan of £80,000 for house purchase in the United Kingdom and an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 per annum which would be applied to the redemption of the loan during the lifetime of Sir Roy or Lady Welensky or for 16 years, whichever was shorter. The money was made over to the Welenskys in February 1981 after which they proceeded to a house purchase. (I take it that this is the house whose address is given in Sir Roy Welensky's letterhead). Sir Roy Welensky in due course wrote to the Prime Minister to thank you for these arrangements.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

5. We should in the first instance do all that we can to persuade the Zimbabwe Government to make an exception over the unfreezing of Sir Roy Welensky's assets. Unless you think that this warrants a personal message from the Prime Minister to Mr. Mugabe (on which I think we should have to consult the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) I recommend that you should write to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's Private Secretary seeking the active intervention of our High Commission in Harare to this end. I attach a draft letter for you to send to Mr. Fall.

RIA

Robert Armstrong

11th June 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL





SECRET AND PERSONAL

DRAFT LETTER FROM MR. WHITMORE TO  
B. J. P. FALL, Esq., Private Secretary to the  
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary

I enclose a copy of a letter which Lord Boyd of Merton has sent to the Prime Minister, together with a copy of a letter which he has had from Sir Roy Welensky about the latter's financial position. As you will see, Sir Roy Welensky, who is now resident in Britain, has substantial assets tied up in Zimbabwe which have been frozen by the Mugabe Government and on which he is only allowed to draw at a very limited level. It would be a considerable help to Sir Roy Welensky if the Mugabe Government were able to take some exceptional action over the unfreezing of his assets.

Your files will <sup>show</sup> reveal that a special arrangement was made early in 1981 to provide Sir Roy Welensky with an interest-free loan to purchase a house in England and for this loan to be paid back over a period of 16 years through an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 from Her Majesty's Government. While it should be possible to defend the house purchase arrangement if it ever became public, it would be very difficult to defend any subsequent payments, particularly if they became a continuing commitment. The Prime Minister does, however, think that we should do all that we can to try to persuade the Mugabe Government to make an exception of Sir Roy Welensky and to release his capital assets frozen in Zimbabwe. She would be grateful if the advice of our High Commission in Harare could be sought on what action might be taken to this end.

SECRET AND PERSONAL





10

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

BF

MR. WRIGHT

Lord Boyd of Merton has sent the Prime Minister the attached letter, with a copy of one to him from Sir Roy Welensky.

You will see that Sir Roy is still concerned about the financial position of his family in the longer term.

The Prime Minister's initial reaction is that we must both help him further directly, and make a special case to Mr. Mugabe about the export of Sir Roy's financial assets from Zimbabwe.

I am not, at this stage, copying the correspondence to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I am sure that the Prime Minister would appreciate Sir Robert Armstrong's advice in the first instance.

MAP

28 May 1982

B



28 May 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 25 May about Sir Roy Welensky. She will see this over the weekend.

M A PATTISON

The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Boyd of Merton, C.H., D.L.

BC



PRIME MINISTER

Here is a letter from Lord Boyd, who has recently seen Sir Roy Welensky. Sir Roy is still having difficulties caused by the freezing of assets in Zimbabwe. These are set out in the letter he has written to Lord Boyd.

Would you like to reply to Lord Boyd saying that we are applying what pressure we can to persuade Mr. Mugabe's government to allow the export of assets? Or would you like us to explore with the FCO whether there is anything more we can do to give Sir Roy specific help, despite the generous assistance he has already had?

WM

27 May, 1982

We must help further!  
ms

I think we should also make a special case for Dr. Mugabe  
ms



FROM: VISCOUNT BOYD, C.H., D.L.

INCE CASTLE,  
SALTASH,  
CORNWALL. PL12 4RA

TEL: 075 55 2274  
SALTASH 2274

25 May 1982

R27

My dear Margaret,

You may remember that on the morning after your historic visit to Old Warden in Bedfordshire I told you at breakfast that Patsy and I were shortly going to see Roy Welensky in Dorset.

I said that he was very worried about the freezing of assets in Zimbabwe. You told me that after talking to him I could write to you. I have now had a letter from Roy, a copy of which I attach.

James  
Alan

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,



Telephone:  
BLANDFORD 52781

SHAFTESBURY HOUSE  
MILLDOWN ROAD  
BLANDFORD FORUM  
DORSET DT11 7DE

"CONFIDENTIAL"

14TH MAY, 1982.

THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT BOYD OF MERTON, CH, DL.,  
INCE CASTLE,  
SALTASH,  
CORNWALL PL12 4RA.

MY DEAR ALAN,

IT WAS A GREAT JOY FOR VAL AND I TO HAVE YOU AND PATSY WITH US,  
AND I NEED HARDLY SAY WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BOTH  
AT INCE LATER IN THE YEAR.

DO I HAVE TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE INTEREST YOU HAVE  
TAKEN IN MY AFFAIRS, WHICH I WILL NOW SET OUT AS BEST I CAN.

IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE WHOLE PROBLEM TURNED ON WHETHER THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE WILL ALLOW ME TO TAKE MY CAPITAL OUT OF THAT  
COUNTRY. BRIEFLY MY FINANCIAL POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

THERE IS A TRUST FOR VAL AND THE TWO CHILDREN THAT WITH THE HELP  
OF YOU AND GORDON RICHARDSON WE ESTABLISHED AFTER I HAD THAT SEVERE  
CORONARY ATTACK IN '78. UNTIL THE RECESSION AND THE SHARP FALL IN  
MINING SHARES THERE WAS AN INCOME OF ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT THOUSAND  
POUNDS A YEAR FROM THAT SOURCE. IT IS NOW CONSIDERABLY LESS. TURNING  
TO THE ZIMBABWE SITUATION, I HAVE ABOUT 30,000 DOLLARS IN CASH; IT'S  
PROBABLY MORE THAN THIS NOW. I AM ALMOST DUE FOR ANOTHER 40,000  
DOLLARS ON A HOUSE I SOLD. PAYMENT HAS GOT TO BE COMPLETED BY 1983.  
I ALSO HAVE STOCKS AND SHARES, MAINLY SOUTH AFRICAN, AND A RAILWAY  
PENSION, AS AN EX-ENGINE DRIVER, OF 203 RHODESIAN DOLLARS A MONTH.  
WHEN WE LEFT ZIMBABWE A YEAR AGO, THE ARRANGEMENT IN EXISTENCE AT  
THAT TIME WAS THAT I COULD TAKE OUT 25,000 DOLLARS A YEAR, RISING  
FROM THE FUNDS THAT I HAD. WITHIN FOUR MONTHS THAT WAS REDUCED TO  
15,000 DOLLARS P.A. A FAIRLY ROUGH EQUIVALENT WOULD BE £10,000  
IN ENGLISH CURRENCY. I THINK I OUGHT TO ADD THAT ON THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF MY DEPARTURE FROM ZIMBABWE, I AM ALLOWED TO DRAW 3,000 DOLLARS  
OF CAPITAL. IN PASSING, I THINK I SHOULD MENTION THAT I AM GETTING  
VERY STRONG RUMOURS FROM SALISBURY THAT THE 15,000 DOLLAR LIMIT IS  
LIKELY TO BE STILL FURTHER REDUCED, IN THE LIGHT OF ZIMBABWE'S

/CONTINUED.



CONTINUED

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHAT I AM REALLY TRYING TO SAY, ALAN, IS THAT WHEN WE LEFT A YEAR AGO MY INCOME WAS SUCH THAT IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN US A REASONABLE STANDARD OF LIVING, BUT WITH THE CONTINUED INFLATION PLUS THE WORLD RECESSION, PARTICULARLY IN THE MINERAL MARKET, OUR POSITION WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT AS WE GO ALONG. I CAN MANAGE FOR A WHILE LIVING ON CAPITAL, WHICH IS WHAT I AM DOING AT THE MOMENT, BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THAT AS WELL.

VAL AND I ARE BOTH ANXIOUS TO SEE THE TWO LITTLE GIRLS EDUCATED, AND I WANT IT DONE AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW EXPENSIVE THAT IS IN THIS COUNTRY. IN PASSING THE TRUST THAT I SET UP FOR VAL AND THE TWO KIDS IS IN JERSEY.

VAL JOINS ME IN SENDING OUR AFFECTIONATE REGARDS TO YOU BOTH.

AS EVER.

*Ray*

*I gave you the value of my Rhodesian assets in a previous letter about £200,000.*