

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

①



12th October 1982 NRW/cmh

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

RB

Prime Minister

Do you want to see Mr. Winterton
and Mr. Walker? *Yes*

Would you like a brief on the
present situation in Zimbabwe? *Yes*
not

Dear Margaret,

I enclose a letter which I have received from Mr Denis Walker
who is a duly elected Republic Front MP in Zimbabwe.

A.S.C. 14/10.

Unfortunately he cannot return to his country to carry out his
Parliamentary duties for fear of being arrested on unspecified
charges. He is currently in the United Kingdom with his wife and
son, as he holds a British passport, and the contents of his letter
are self-explanatory.

I would very much like you to meet Mr Walker in my presence
privately, so that he could, in total confidence, describe the
problems of Zimbabwe as he sees it today, with specific reference
to the detention of Mr Wally Stuttaford, another Republic Front
Member of Parliament, and others. I do emphasise that the
meeting would be a totally private one, and all discussions which
took place would be entirely confidential. I do ask you to give
this request very urgent and sympathetic consideration. Mr Walker
does not wish to see the Foreign Secretary or a Minister within the
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as he does not believe that such
a meeting could be beneficial or advantageous in any way, and
sadly I share his view. I hope you will not forget that our
Government was responsible for the Lancaster House Agreement
which laid down firm guidelines for basic human and democratic
rights, and these have been consistently violated since independence.
Surely, like Pontius Pilate we cannot wash our hands of the whole
matter, and I do believe that you personally should be advised, at
first hand by a Rhodesian MP, as to the situation in that sad country.

I look forward to your reply, and hope that a meeting can be
arranged after Parliament has re-assembled.

N. Winterton
N. Winterton

Mr. N.R. Winterton M.P.
Whitehall Farm,
Newbold Astbury,
Congleton, Cheshire.

6, St. Nicolas Close,
Tingrith,
Milton Keynes, Beds. MK17 9EL.
6th October, 1982.

Dear Nicholas,

As you can see from the above address, I am now in the U.K. I have decided that I cannot let the situation concerning my country Zimbabwe and the people like Wally Stuttaford become a forgotten issue.

I was as much responsible as anyone in the Rhodesian Parliament for the passage of the Lancaster House Agreement. I gave an assurance to thousands of people in Zimbabwe on the strength of the safeguards in that agreement. I was one of the Members of Parliament who spent weeks selling it to the electorate. They were given the assurance that their future democratic rights would be safe-guarded, that their property and liberty would be secure.

As you know, I am British by birth and because of this, I am unable to simply forget the assurances we gave to so many people in Zimbabwe. For I consider if I were to give up now, it would not only be a betrayal of my personal integrity, but also a betrayal of the high British principles which gained in years passed the respect for Britain throughout the world. To give up now, would be to betray a trust encumberant upon us from the very day that we told so many that all would be well for their future.

Nicolas, I feel that I already owe so much to you. You have championed this cause for me over these many months. Please forgive me for troubling you further, but do you think you could through whatever means you have at your disposal, arrange for me to meet our Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher. I feel that if only I could spend a short time with her, having witnessed her natural compassion and burning desire for justice and fair play, she would understand more fully the plight of my friend and colleague, Mr. Wally Stuttaford and others who are being held without trial in Zimbabwe.

Wally has now been in prison since the 10th December last year. I know that as far back as last February, we were all assured by Mr. Mugabe that he would soon be brought to trial. It is now clear that this information was only to mislead and was not a genuine endeavour to bring the matter forward in a just manner.

I have been told my a member of Amnesty International that it is understood that over 2000 political prisoners are now being held in Zimbabwe without trial. It is clear that the situation is not improving.

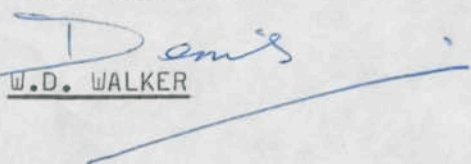
My wife and son, Jill and Trevor are here with me in the U.K. I did write to the authorities in Harare about my returning so that I could take up my seat in Parliament and carry out my parliamentary duties without hindrance, but they replied saying they would not discuss the matter. Therefore it became clear we were unable to return to Zimbabwe without dire consequences.

As a family we have lost everything. I never thought at the time of the Lancaster House Agreement it would come to this. Many say to us that we are fortunate because we are alive and free and still have each other. There is truth in this. The trauma of these past months have seemed like a nightmare that never ends. Because of our misfortune, we are constantly mindful of those who have lost their liberty and are separated from their loved ones. It is for this added reason that we feel that we must go on trying to help.

Any assistance you can give will be deeply appreciated.

My very best wishes to you.

Yours sincerely,


W.D. WALKER



14th October 1982 NRW/cmh

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

Prime Minister

According to the press, Mr. Stuttaford has finally been released. We will get the facts before your meeting with

Mr. Winterton.

A.J.C. 15/10.

Dear Margaret,

Further to my letter dated 12th October, I have now been advised by Mr Denis Walker, the Republic Front MP currently in this country with his family, that his colleague, Mr Wally Stuttaford, who has been detained without charge or trial in Zimbabwe since 10th December last year, was finally brought to trial, acquitted and then immediately re-arrested.

This is certainly hardly the spirit of the Lancaster House Agreement, and I believe confirms the need for Mr Walker to meet you personally to discuss the situation currently developing in Zimbabwe.

Since dictating this letter, your Private Secretary has telephoned to indicate that you are prepared to meet Mr Walker and his wife, together with myself, in your room at the House of Commons on Tuesday, 19th October, at 3.45 p.m. I am very pleased that this meeting has been arranged.



10 DOWNING STREET

Carlina

When you have fixed a time,
please return to me and I shall
commission briefing.

A.F.C. ¹⁴/₁₀.

AC

TUE 19: OCT
15.45 at
HLC

He will get
Mr Walker
CS.

1411A.



18/10

10 DOWNING STREET

I have asked the F.L.O. to
provide a brief by Monday night.

A.J.C. $\frac{13r.}{10}$

[Handwritten signature]