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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 October 1982

*Jan Toke*

*mt*

Zimbabwe

I enclose, as requested, a briefing note for the Prime Minister for her meeting with an MP tomorrow.

*Jan Bone*  
*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

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## ZIMBABWE

## INTERNAL SITUATION

ZANU/ZAPU Relations

1. Relations between ZANU (Mugabe) and ZAPU (Nkomo) have deteriorated since the finding of arms caches on ZAPU land in February and the subsequent dismissal of Nkomo from the Government and the imprisonment of some ZAPU leaders. Nevertheless, some ZAPU Ministers have remained within the Government.
2. Tensions seem to have relaxed somewhat since late August. Public anti-ZAPU rhetoric by ZANU leaders has largely died away and there have been fewer references to the creation of a one-party state. Some ZANU Ministers appear to have restored working relationships with Nkomo and the possibility of the latter's detention, which once seemed a real risk, has receded. This softening of ZANU attitudes may have been due in part to the firm line condemning dissident violence which Nkomo has been taking in public speeches. It may also reflect a recognition among some ZANU Ministers, possibly including Mugabe, that their tactics towards ZAPU had served only to alienate the Ndebele people and to consolidate the support ZAPU enjoyed in Matabeleland.
3. Some form of political accommodation between ZANU and ZAPU may be emerging. On the other hand, ZANU may renew pressure on Nkomo once the aim of eradicating dissidents has been achieved.

Security Situation

4. The security situation in much of Zimbabwe is generally good, but since the beginning of this year there has been a

  
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steady increase of dissident violence in Matabeleland, Nkomo's political base.

5. ZANU/ZAPU tensions have placed renewed strain on the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA). From late February ZAPU soldiers began deserting from the ZNA in increasing numbers. Some of these, usually operating in small groups, have turned to banditry, generally bus and store robberies, in which a number of civilians, both black and white, have been killed. The Zimbabwean authorities remain convinced (although we have no evidence to support this) that from an early stage there was central planning and direction of the dissident violence by senior members of ZAPU. By the middle of the year the number of dissidents was estimated at 800/1300. In addition to banditry, ZAPU are also believed to have been responsible for the attack on Mugabe's residence in Harare in June and for the kidnapping in July of six white tourists, including two Britons, who, despite an intensive and sustained search by the Zimbabwe security forces, are still missing.

6. There are, however, recent signs of improvement in the security situation in Matabeleland. Incidents of dissidence dropped considerably in September. It remains to be seen whether this improvement will be sustained. The key will be ZANU's willingness to bring about some degree to rapprochement with Nkomo and ZAPU.

#### DETAINEES

7. About 30 whites (and numerous blacks) have been detained under Zimbabwe's emergency regulations (which were inherited from UDI) during the past year. A list of white detainees is attached at Annex A. Of the 30, 15 of these have been released.

8. The white detainees fall into two groups: those suspected of political offences, and Air Force personnel suspected of sabotage at Thornhill air base. In several cases South African complicity is suspected. As well as several blacks, some of the white AFZ officers and a white civilian (Stuttaford) are believed to have been tortured or ill-treated in some way.

9. All but a very few of the detainees, including the AFZ officers,  
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\*~\* Passage deleted and  
retained under Section 3(4).  
Wayland  
4 December 2012

are Zimbabwean citizens or dual nationals. The only mono-British citizen currently in detention without charge is Philip Hartlebury, a former member of Mr Mugabe's intelligence staff, who is accused \* ~~~~~ \* of spying for South Africa. Our High Commission makes regular consular visits to Hartlebury who is reputed to be fit and in reasonable spirits.

10. In the case of another British citizen, Sergeant Lochran (one of the AFZ detainees) the British High Commission has made a formal protest to the Zimbabwean authorities about his ill-treatment. Sergeant Lochran was released on 16 September and is now back in Britain.

11. In the case of Zimbabwean or dual citizens HMG has no formal right to intervene or demand consular access. However, British Ministers have on several occasions raised the question of detainees with Zimbabwean Ministers and pressed that they should be brought to trial without delay. During his visit in September, Mr Nott told Mr Mugabe of our concern about reports of torture against the AFZ personnel.

12. The position of the AFZ detainees has improved in the last two weeks. It is possible that Mr Nott's representations combined with his provisional offer of assistance to the AFZ had some part in this.

13. We know that torture of AFZ detainees has now ceased and several of the officers have been released. There is no evidence that the witch hunt against AFZ officers is continuing. Seven of the officers have now appeared before magistrates, indicating that the judicial process has started. Although the AFZ detainees seem unlikely to come to trial much before early February 1983, this is by no means unusual or excessive for the Zimbabwean legal system. Lawyers acting for two of the detainees have told the High Commission that there are no real grounds for complaint or concern at this stage although they intend to press the authorities to make haste. The High Commission's legal informant has said that most of the detainees are beginning to recover from their ordeal, although the condition of Flight Lt. Lloyd is causing some concern.

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Name	Still Detained	Released	Allegations of maltreatment or torture	Nationality
Air Vice Marshal H C S Slatter	✓		✓	Zimbabwean ? Dual
Air Commodore P V Pile	✓		✓	Dual
Wing Commander P R Briscoe	✓		✓	Zimbabwean
Wing Commander J R Cox	✓		✓	Dual
Flt Lieutenant N J T Lewis Walker	✓			Zimbabwean ? Dual
Flt Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd	✓		✓	Dual
Flt Lieutenant N A Weir	✓			Dual
Squadron Leader J A Connolly		✓		Dual
Warrant Officer D F Rautenbach		✓		Zimbabwean
Master Technician Forrester		✓		Zimbabwean ? Dual
Sergeant K Hinton		✓		Dual
Sergeant Loots		✓		Zimbabwean ? Dual
Sergeant J Lochran		✓	✓	Mono British
E W Stuttaford		✓	✓	Zimbabwean
*Stephen Bertrand		✓		Mono British
Francis Bertrand	✓			Zimbabwean
Mrs R Bertrand		✓		Dual
P E Hartlebury	✓			Mono British
A York		✓		Dual
N York		✓		Dual
V S Radmore	✓			Dual

\*Serving a prison sentence following conviction of plotting to commit sabotage.

cont'd...



Name	Still Detained	Released	Allegations of maltreatment or torture	Nationality
Mrs T G Radmore		✓		Dual
W Hipson		✓		Mono British
J A McDowall		✓		Mono British
C Evans	✓			Dual
A R Cauvin	✓			Dual
S J Griffin	✓			Dual
J Ramsay		✓		Mono British
S Torok	✓			Zimbabwean
C Bickle	✓			? Zimbabwean



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