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FM HARARE 291330Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 686 OF 29 NOVEMBER

INFO ROUTINE PRETORIA AND WASHINGTON

Sis. T. Leahy

PS/POS

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(2)

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MY TELNO 670: IAN SMITH

1. THE BULAWAYO CHRONICLE ON 27 NOVEMBER PUBLISHED THE FULL TEXT OF SMITH'S INTERVIEW IN THE US WITH THE WASHINGTON TIMES, DESCRIBED AS A 'RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE DAILY OWNED BY THE MOONIES', UNDER THE HEADLINE 'SAVE RHODESIA, SMITH ASKS THE FREE WORLD'. THE CHRONICLE ARTICLE FOLLOWS STATEMENTS BY SMITH TO THE ZIMBABWEAN NEWS AGENCY THAT REPORTS OF WHAT HE HAD SAID IN AMERICA WERE A LIE AND A DISTORTION. FOLLOWING IS THE ABRIDGED TEXT:

BEGINS

THE FREE WORLD MUST HELP RESTORE SANITY IN ZIMBABWE RATHER THAN ASSIST IT TO BECOME A MARXIST DICTATORSHIP, THE FORMER RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER, MR IAN SMITH, SAID 'WE CAN HOLD ON, WE CAN SAVE THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY' (QUOTING SMITH).....

ASKED WHY HE DID NOT REFER TO ZIMBABWE BY NAME, HE SAID: 'YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT. OK, OFFICIALLY AND LEGALLY ITS ZIMBABWE AND I'VE ACCEPTED IT'.

'BUT IN MY HEART UNTIL I DIE IT WILL BE RHODESIA. IT MUST BE'.

MR SMITH SAID PREMIER MR ROBERT MUGABE, HAD REALISED WHEN HE CAME TO POWER THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE WHITES IN THE COUNTRY. IN THE FIRST YEAR THINGS HAD GONE WELL AND MOST OF THE MINISTERS BEHAVED THEMSELVES.

LAPSE THEN THE OCT REALLY GET LHM MR SMITH CALL

POWER THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE WHITES IN THE COUNTRY. IN THE FIRST YEAR THINGS HAD GONE WELL AND MOST OF THE MINISTERS BEHAVED THEMSELVES.

"BUT THEN THE ROT REALLY SET IN" MR SMITH SAID.

WHITES WHO HAD THE EXPERTISE AND THE SKILLS TO MAKE THE COUNTRY RUN WERE LEAVING BECAUSE LIFE HAD BEEN MADE UNBEARABLE FOR THEM.

EDUCATION, HEALTH SERVICES AND THE ECONOMY WERE BREAKING DOWN, TAXATION WAS EXCESSIVE, THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION WAS BAD, HE SAID. THE MEDIA HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR SMITH WAS ASKED WHETHER HIS OWN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN GUILTY OF DETENTIONS AND TORTURES HE COMPLAINED OF NOW.

HE SAID THE MUGABE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THEY WERE USING THE SAME EMERGENCY POWERS USED BY THE SMITH GOVERNMENT.

"BUT OF COURSE, WE WERE USING THEM WHEN WE WERE AT WAR, EXACTLY THE SAME AS OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DONE, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN."

"AND WE HAVE NEVER CONDONED TORTURE" MR SMITH SAID.

MR MUGABE HAD INHERITED A WONDERFUL ECONOMY WHICH WAS NOW RUNNING DOWN. HE HAD SPENT MONEY LIKE WATER.

"HE HAS 57 MINISTERS, I'M TOLD - MORE MINISTERS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD - ALL DRIVING AROUND IN THEIR MERCEDES BENZES. EVERYBODY IS A COMRADE AND EVERY COMRADE IS ENTITLED TO A JOB".

MR SMITH SAID: "THERE IS THE DANGER OF THE FREE WORLD FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF AIDING AND ABETTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ONE-PARTY MARXIST DICTATORSHIP IN A COUNTRY WHICH SHOULD BE PART OF THE FREE WORLD."

ENDS.

ELAM

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FM HARARE 261450Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 682 OF 26 NOVEMBER.

No 10?

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MY TELNO 681 : I D SMITH.

1. TODAY'S HERALD REPORTS ANDERSON, AS LEADER OF THE INDEPENDENT ALLIANCE IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, SAYING THAT THE WHITE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE REPORTED CRITICISMS OF ZIMBABWE MADE IN THE UNITED STATES BY MR IAN SMITH. ANDERSON SAID SMITH HAD RAISED ACRIMONY AND SUSPICION AMONG THE RACES WHEN COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION AND POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS WERE NEEDED.

2. ANDERSON HAS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED CRITICISING SMITH IN THE PAST, EVEN SINCE THE SPLIT, AND IT IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT HE MADE THE STATEMENT AFTER THE NEWS OF THE "PRIVATE VIEW" HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC HERE. BUT ACTUALLY THAT INCIDENT HAS HAD SURPRISINGLY LITTLE IMPACT HERE, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, AND INDEED WADMAN (MY TELNO 678) DESCRIBED IT TO US AS "A STORM IN A TEACUP".

ELAM

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