

Duncan-Sandys

10th August 1979

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of 9th August which I greatly appreciated.

As you rightly say we need to follow up our initiative as soon as possible before there are any second thoughts amongst any of those that we met in Lusaka. Every stop is being pulled out and I hope that we achieve eventual success.

Meanwhile I trust that you enjoy a good break in Portugal. I am off next Wednesday for a week to Scotland.

The Rt Hon the Lord Duncan-Sandys CH

As from
86 Vincent Square SW1

9.8.79

My dear Margaret,

I am scribbling this line on my knees at Gatwick airport. Before leaving for a holiday in Portugal, I just wanted to say how immensely I admire the way you and Peter have handled the Rhodesian question at Lusaka.

Your plan and your timing are exactly what the situation demands. Having had some personal experience of the personalities with whom you have had to deal, I have some idea of the problems you have had to face.

I realise, of course, that there are still some pretty big fences to get over, both inside and outside the country. But your remarkable success in winning the absolutely essential support of the "Front Line Presidents", who alone can exercise pressure on Messrs Nkombo + Mugabe, should make your task infinitely less difficult.

From what you have said, I see that you rightly recognise the need to move quickly, before the goodwill of these volatile gentlemen evaporates, as it all too easily can.

Well done! Good luck! And God speed!

Yours

Duncan