



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 December 1982

Dear John,

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Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwean Minister for Agriculture, Senator Norman, is due to call on the Prime Minister at 3.45 pm today. You may find helpful the following account of Senator Norman's meeting with Mr Onslow this morning.

Senator Norman said that he accepted that there were problems in Zimbabwe. The economy was going through a difficult patch. The Government were also well aware of the publicity that alleged malpractices on the human rights front had generated. But the picture was not all bad. Mr Smith's statements during his recent visits to London and Washington had not been helpful. He was surprised at the extent of interest in Ian Smith in the UK. He might still be the best known white politician in Zimbabwe; but his views were no longer representative of the majority of whites there.

Mr Onslow said that other events, for example the delay in bringing the white MP, Mr Stuttford, to trial and allegations that Zimbabwe Air Force personnel had been tortured, aroused concern here, particularly amongst Parliamentarians, about the more general situation in Zimbabwe. Senator Norman agreed. He said he had spoken last week to Mr Mugabe about the Air Force men. Mr Mugabe had asserted that he did not know whether the torture allegations were true but assured Senator Norman that the truth would come out in Court. Mugabe could not intervene while the case was sub judice without arousing criticism, but would ensure that justice was done. If the officers had been tortured, they would be freed and their assailants charged.

Mr Onslow asked whether a wider programme of visits by prominent and influential people might help the Zimbabweans to convey some of the more positive developments. Senator Norman fully agreed. He pointed to the highly successful visit which Mr Mugabe paid to the UK earlier this year. Similarly, the recent visits to Zimbabwe by Princess Anne and Vice-President Bush had created a tremendous impression and received extensive and favourable press coverage.

Senator Norman emphasised that his concern, like that of all other responsible Zimbabweans, was to ensure that 'the glue sticks'. The West, and particularly Britain, with which many Zimbabweans felt close ties, should play a central part

/in this



in this process. One, relatively inexpensive, way to maintain this special relationship would be through gestures such as arranging for Mugabe to receive an honorary degree from a leading University. This would help to boost morale and maintain confidence in Zimbabwean Ministers. Senator Norman said that we should also give particular attention to moderate Ministers such as Chidzero (Finance and Economic Planning) who were working hard to ensure that pragmatic policies were pursued. There were unfortunately some wilder men in the Cabinet whose influence had to be countered; there might be an important reshuffle in January.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1982

~~John T. ...~~ *102 13/12*
h.a.

Zimbabwe: Call on the Prime Minister by
Senator Norman: 13 December

/ I enclose a short brief for
Mr Norman's call on Monday, including
a biographical note.

Yours on
R B Bone

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Private Secretary

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ZIMBABWE: CALL BY SENATOR NORMAN ON THE PRIME MINISTER:
MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 1982

POINTS TO MAKE

White Morale

1. Recent actions against Ian Smith have attracted adverse publicity here and elsewhere abroad. Imagine that these actions have also had an effect on white morale in Zimbabwe. Interested in Mr Norman's views on current situation.

Emigration

2. Note that emigration of whites, though far from exodus predicted by some, is steady at about 1500 a month. Presumably many of these have important skills. How is this affecting the economy, in particular your agricultural sector?

3. Is this counter-balanced to any extent by white immigration?

Detainees

4. We recognise that this is essentially an internal matter. But reports of ill-treatment of some detainees, including ZAF personnel, have also attracted adverse publicity in the UK. This causes us problems, for example over our military assistance to Zimbabwe (although we have just agreed to increase the size of BMATT).

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- 2 -

5. We have already made clear our views on this to Mr Mugabe and other Ministers. Grateful for assurances that they have given that Air Force personnel will be brought to trial soon. An early and open trial will be important for Zimbabwe's image abroad.

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CALL BY SENATOR NORMAN ON THE PRIME MINISTER: MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 1982

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Ian Smith

1. Mr Norman is regarded by the white farming community (in the past part of the hard core of Republican Front support) as their spokesman and protector vis-à-vis the Government. He has told our High Commissioner that Ian Smith no longer represents the views of the white community. He is also concerned about the effect of Mr Smith's recent actions upon the Government's attitude towards the white community as a whole. Mr Norman has himself detected a slight but susceptible cooling in the attitude of his fellow black Ministers towards him.

Detainees

2. When Mr Nott raised the question of reports of alleged maltreatment of Air Force detainees, he was given to understand by Mr Mugabe that they would be brought to trial soon. Mr Mugabe also told General Shortis recently that once the matter had come to the courts, the reports of ill-treatment, if found to be true, would be investigated and appropriate action taken.

The Minister of Justice has told our High Commissioner that there is a good chance of the men being brought to trial at the next session of the High Court in January or February.

Emigration

3. The number of emigrants is holding steady at about 1500 a month, the majority of whom are probably white. On average there

are about 600 new immigrants into Zimbabwe each month, a high proportion of whom are probably white. Some of these are returning white emigrants.

Military Assistance

4. Ministers recently agreed to a modest increase in the size of the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) to enable the completion of Zimbabwe Army instructor training by June next year. Ministers are still considering whether to sell to Zimbabwe six Hunter aircraft as replacements for those destroyed by sabotage in July. Ministers have decided not to provide RAF technicians or SAS training assistance for the time being.

Economy

5. The economy is now suffering the full effects of the recession. The mining sector in particular has been affected by low world prices; and the Zimbabwe Dollar has, for some time, been overvalued. However, the Zimbabwe Government took the politically difficult decision this week to devalue the Dollar by 20%. The Zimbabweans are seeking IMF assistance.

6. The agricultural sector remains the mainstay of the economy. Zimbabwe has a substantial maize surplus. The number of commercial farmers has increased by 400 since independence to about 4,500.

Central African Department

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

10 December 1982



NORMAN, DENIS

Minister of Agriculture, Member of the Senate.

Born March 1931 Chalgrove, England. Educated All Saints School Bloxham. Worked on family farm in England from 1947-53 when he moved to Southern Rhodesia. Still has farming interests in England. Farm assistant in Matepetepa 1953-56; Farm Manager Umvukwes 1956-69. Bought farm at Kard in 1959 and owned three by 1975. Chairman of Karoi's Intensive Conservation Area Committee, 1964-66. Vice Chairman of Karoi Farmers Association 1967-70. Vice Chairman of Rhodesia Grain Producers' Association, 1972 and Chairman, 1974-76.

Vice-President Rhodesia National Farmers Union 1976 and President 1978. President Commercial Farmers' Union (previously National Farmers' Union) 1979-80. Very successful farmer, highly respected farmers' leader, always stayed out of party politics. Made Minister of Agriculture by Mugabe in March 1980 at Lord Soames' suggestion and has assumed the role with considerable success. He and his very charming wife get on well with their Ministerial colleagues. Both very pro-British and pro-settlement. They have four children, the eldest daughter recently married, the youngest in her late teens. Their son is studying agriculture at Cirencester.

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Carline Zimbabwe

I have offered this time to the F.I.C.O. The P.R. does not want this visit to be publicised.

MISS STEPHENS

I think the Prime Minister may want to see Mr. Bruce Norman, the Zimbabwe Minister of Agriculture. Are you able to offer half an hour on

on 9/12

cf Have put it in square brackets.

- a) the morning of 13 December
- b) the afternoon of 13 December
- c) 2.30 on 15 December?

A.F.C.

(preference for quiet night today).

9 December 1982

16.00
Monday 13th