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Zimbabwe

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 March 1983

Zimbabwe: Mr. Nkomo

Roger Bone's letter of today's date refers. Colin Walters told me on the telephone that the Home Secretary's view was that Nkomo should be allowed to stay for at least a further month from 12 April, this being a normal period of extension, and that there would be merit in considering an extension of two months so that we should not have to revert to the matter for some time.

When the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary called to discuss other business with the Prime Minister this afternoon, this matter came up. Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary thought an extension of two months would be rather too comfortable for Nkomo and would reduce the incentive for him to work out a solution which would enable him to return to Zimbabwe. They would therefore prefer that he be granted an extension of one month.

It is of course for the Home Secretary to take a decision on this matter but I shall assume, unless I hear to the contrary, that Nkomo will be given one month's extension.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Henry Steel (Law Officers' Department).

A. J. COLES

A.R. Rawsthorne, Esq.,  
Home Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 March 1983

*for Tony,*

*made  
2 mths to say*

Zimbabwe: Mr Nkomo

As you know, Mr Nkomo's permission to stay in this country will expire on 12 April. At the Cabinet meeting on 24 March it was agreed that it would be undesirable to have to extend the one month period for which Nkomo had already been given permission to stay. At the same meeting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were asked to enquire whether the Commonwealth Secretariat could be of help in making it possible for Nkomo to return to Zimbabwe.

Mr Ramphal has now told Mr Onslow that his Deputy, Chief Anyaoku, has provisionally planned a visit to Zimbabwe from 15 to 21 April and will take that opportunity to see whether the Secretariat can play any helpful role.

Meanwhile there are some indications from other sources that Nkomo has no early plans to leave this country, and we may therefore soon need to decide how to react to a request for a further extension.

Mr Pym is inclined to think that it would be better not to expel Nkomo before we know the result of the Commonwealth Secretariat soundings. To expel on the 12th might give the impression that we were unsympathetic to the Secretariat's efforts. Nkomo's stay has not so far aroused very much public concern in the UK, and the Zimbabwe Government are in no doubt that HMG are carefully avoiding involvement in Nkomo's problems.

Mr Pym would be grateful to know the Prime Minister's the Home Secretary's and the Attorney General's views on this. It remains very desirable that Nkomo should be required to leave the country soon. But on the assumption that Chief Anyaoku goes ahead with his planned visit on the dates mentioned above (and we will confirm this as soon as a final decision is taken), Mr Pym is inclined to the view that we should let Nkomo stay for a further short period, say until the end of April, and that the position should be reviewed at that stage.

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month (normal)  
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/I am

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I am copying this letter to John Coles (No 10) and to  
Jim Nursaw (Attorney General's Office).

*Very  
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

Tony Rawsthorne Esq  
Home Office

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Zimbabwe  
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30 MAR 1983

