

CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER

Rhodesia

In his letter to you below, Senator Helms claims President Carter's authority to seek a completely private meeting with you to discuss Rhodesia. This raises a number of difficulties.

*Not necessary.*

I think you could expect to have had some word direct from President Carter, perhaps over the hot-line, if it was indeed his wish that you should have a meeting of this kind with Senator Helms. Equally, you will wish to ponder the implications of the Senator's apparent desire to exclude the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary from his talks with you. If you agree, I should be grateful for your authority to send Lord Carrington a copy of Senator Helms' letter on a strictly personal basis and for his eyes only so that you and he can discuss it.

[A]

You may also like to glance, at the same time, at the attached report by Miles Hudson on his recent visit to Washington, which throws some light on the political and atmospheric background to Senator Helms' letter.

*Blm,*

18 June 1979

*I would rather show it to Lord C. myself - the F.O. is known to be unhappy about this "leaking".  
Should check to make sure appropriate to case Helms.  
Richard*

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*Action in hand.  
P.A.  
G.M.  
20/6*