

Mr Renwick (Rhodesia Department)

Call by the American Ambassador  
on the Secretary of State on 20 September: Rhodesia

Mr Brewster called on Lord Carrington this afternoon. Lord Carrington said that he was anxious to go to New York to see Mr Vance. Mr Brewster mentioned that the recent activities of Senator Helm's aides in London were presumably not welcome to HMG. The Secretary of State then gave an account of the Rhodesia Conference. The Bishop now seemed to have everyone in line except Mr Smith on the constitution and new elections. But this had been hard going for him, and we could not push the Bishop much further. The Patriotic Front had given remarkably little trouble so far. There had been disagreements, but no hostility. Our impression was that they wanted a settlement, especially Nkomo. Mugabe's attitude was less certain. Despite a problem over the white seats, we might get a constitution. The Patriotic Front might claim that we had not moved; but the Bishop could make the same complaint. The point was that our proposals were the halfway house between the two. The real difficulties would come when we got to arrangements for the elections. The Patriotic Front's proposals were totally unacceptable. In any case, we had our own ideas.

Mr Brewster asked about President Nyerere's attitude. Lord Carrington said that during his stopover in London Nyerere had been very strong on the need to integrate the forces. This seemed to us absurd and quite impossible before the elections. Presidents Kaunda and Machel had been surprisingly helpful. All in all, the Conference was not going too badly. Mr Brewster said that Mr Vance would want to do anything possible to help. Lord Carrington said that it would be awkward if the Senate lifted sanctions. Mr Brewster said that Mr Vance had been outraged by the activities of Senator Helm's two aides in London. The Ambassador himself had telephoned several Senators he knew personally to lobby them. He thought things would come out all right, though the implication of any premature lifting of eg. strategic raw materials sanctions would be bad.

Mr Brewster mentioned that the Americans also stood ready to help eg over arrangements for any UN or Commonwealth force (it was not clear whether he was suggesting American involvement in the former). The Americans might also be able to help over "baiting the hook", eg by financial help after independence.

*J. J. H. Walden*

20 September 1979

(G G H Walden)

cc: PS/LPS            Mr Byatt  
PS/Mr Luce        Mr Day  
PS/PUS            Mr Barder  
Sir A Duff        NAD  
Lord N            UND  
Gordon Lennox

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