

(Papers on Senator Helms)

USA

Lanpher &amp; Co.

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PS/PUS

## RHODESIA: CONSULTATION WITH THE AMERICANS

1. Consultation with the Americans about Rhodesia has hitherto been carried on through Mr Ray Seitz in the US Embassy here. It has always worked admirably.
2. Mr Lanpher is a new arrival in the Embassy. Since the beginning of the Rhodesia Conference I have given him daily confidential background briefings on progress in the Conference. He has been very helpful over a number of points - for instance in explaining to the State Department the difference of view between us and President Nyerere over the idea of trying to integrate the forces before elections. These briefings have usually taken place in my office or by exchanges of telephone calls.
3. I have been struck by the fact that at several of these meetings Mr Lanpher asked persistently about the activities of two members of Senator Helms' staff, Messrs Carbaugh and Lucier, who have been in London and - like some parliamentarians here - have urged Mr Smith not to agree to any changes to the Constitution. I took little notice of these references to Senator Helms' staff, as their activities seemed very peripheral in relation to the work of the Conference. I understand, however, that Mr Lanpher was previously detached from the State Department to look after relations with Congress and that, on behalf of Mr Moose, he was engaged in a series of battles with Messrs Carbaugh and Lucier to keep sanctions in force.
4. On 19 September I was forewarned by Bishop Muzorewa that Mr Smith might be difficult in the bilateral meeting because he believed that the meeting of the joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the Defence Authorisation Bill would agree an amendment lifting sanctions against Rhodesia on 1 October. In order to be able to brief the Secretary of State before the meeting, I asked Mr Lanpher what the position was in the Senate, adding that Mr Smith was obviously going to be difficult if such a prospect existed. Mr Lanpher said that this was no doubt attributable to the activities of Messrs Carbaugh and Lucier. I said that Mr Smith was being advised to hold out by some of his contacts here, but Muzorewa was not supporting him. At no point did I get involved in a discussion of Mr Carbaugh and Mr Lucier.
5. Mr Lanpher subsequently contacted me to say that there was "high level interest" in Washington in the activities of Mr Carbaugh and Mr Lucier and could I do anything to help him "document" them. In particular they seemed to be saying that they had seen the Prime Minister. I said that I could not help him "document" their activities but (in order to prevent him believing that the Prime Minister had seen them) said that I understood that they had seen the Private Secretary at No 10.



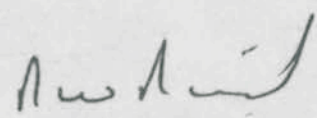
6. At no time did I express concern about the activities of the Senate staffers. Still less did I complain about their activities, which I did not regard as being a matter for us.

7. I subsequently learned that, no doubt in order to try to influence Congress against lifting sanctions, Mr Moose telephoned an American journalist in London to suggest that he might like to follow up a story that we had complained about Senator Helms' staff. Mr Fenn was subsequently asked about this and, after checking with the Department, said that we had not complained.

8. I learned last night from Mr Walden that Mr Vance telephoned the Secretary of State to say that he was concerned that we were denying a statement by the State Department spokesman that we had complained. I was told of the contents of Mr Lanpher's reporting telegram. This attributed to me remarks made by Mr Lanpher. I telephoned Mr Lake in Washington to tell him in the clearest terms what I had actually said to Mr Lanpher. I added that, quite apart from the mis-reporting, it was pretty extraordinary to have State Department spokesmen on the basis of a confidential telegram quoting us in public as saying something we had not in fact said. Mr Lake apologised and said that his only concern was now to help Mr Vance out of this jam. We agreed the line set out in the attached minute, which is generally true apart from the sentence in square brackets.

9. Mr Lake telephoned me again this morning to say that he was very sorry and that Mr Vance was now perfectly happy. I said that it would be very difficult to go on giving full confidential background briefings on the Conference to the US Embassy if these were selectively leaked to the press. He said that he would do all he could to ensure that this never happened again.

10. Mr Lanpher has also telephoned to apologize.

  
R W Renwick  
Rhodesia Department

21 September 1979

cc: PS  
Sir A Duff