



The Commonwealth Jewish Council

Mr Cosles

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Prime Minister
The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1

3rd November, 1983.

My dear Prime Minister -

My warmest thanks and those of my colleagues on the Praesidium of the World Soviet Jewry Movement for receiving us and our representations so cordially.

Two of our leading American guests told me they were "enchanted" - and all of us were tremendously encouraged by the assurance of your continued support for that remarkable humanitarian effort.

I hope that you will not mind my seeking your guidance on another matter - and this time in my capacity as the President of the Commonwealth Jewish Council. You may possibly remember that when you were kind enough to receive the leaders of that Council at 10 Downing Street last December, they included a Mrs. Murial Rosen, from Zimbabwe - a most distinguished and intelligent former member of the Rhodesian Parliament. She was again in London this week and told me very privately of the fears of the 500 Jewish families still left in her country. These were, of course, much accentuated by the arrest of Bishop Abel Muzerewa, according to some reports because of his alleged conspiring with Israel, while at a theological seminary in Jerusalem - according to the reports, made apparent by his public suggestion that Zimbabwe should recognise the State of Israel.

Mrs. Rosen believes that there is a good chance that the Government will not indulge in official anti-Semitism. But I write to you at her request to ask whether you might be kind enough when you are in Delhi and should the appropriate opportunity arise, to let Prime Minister Mugabe know (directly or possibly indirectly) of the concern of my Council and of others regarding the situation of Zimbabwe's steadfast and loyal Jewish community. On the basis that such concern is no doubt entirely without justification, ~~by~~ the fact that it is shared by other Commonwealth leaders might help to avert the sort of catastrophe which has been too frequent an occurrence in Jewish history for us to not recognise the danger signals.

Anyway, if you have any suggestions or guidance which you might give to me as to how this potentially very dangerous situation might be handled, I would be profoundly grateful. And should you wish me to call on you - or perhaps to have a word before or after a vote in the House - then of course I shall be only too glad to do so.

May I say once again how very deeply I appreciate your kindness.

Yours sincerely,

Freddie



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 November 1983

ZIMBABWE

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Greville Janner. He asks whether the Prime Minister would raise with Mr. Mugabe at CHOGM the concern of the Commonwealth Jewish community among others about the situation of the Jewish community in Zimbabwe.

I should be grateful if you would let me have advice and a draft reply for signature by the Prime Minister by Thursday 10 November.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RB



Lee Vb

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 November 1983

I am writing on behalf of
the Prime Minister to thank you
for your letter of 3 November.

This is receiving attention
and you will be sent a reply as
soon as possible.

A. L. COLES

The Hon. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.

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