



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 August 1979

Dear Mr Cartledge

Rhodesia

It may conceivably be of use to you to have the attached comparison of what the Prime Minister said today and what she said in the House of Commons on 25 July. The note was prepared for Lord Carrington to deal with press allegations that what the Prime Minister said this morning was radically different to anything she had said before.

Yours
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B Pitts

PP (J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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COMPARISON OF TEXTS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF
ON 25 JULY AND HER STATEMENT AT CHOGM IN THE DEBATE ON FRIDAY 4 AUGUST

CHOGM

1. "The British Government are wholly committed to genuine black majority rule in Rhodesia."

2. "We accept that it is our constitutional responsibility to grant legal independence on that basis and that only Britain can do it."

3. "We accept that our objective must be to establish that independence on the basis of a constitution comparable with the constitutions we have agreed with other countries."

4. "We are deeply conscious of the urgent need to bring peace to the people of Rhodesia and her neighbours: we will therefore present our proposals as quickly as possible to all the parties and at the same time call on them to cease hostilities and move forward with us on a settlement."

HOUSE OF COMMONS

1. "At this point, I should like to make clear that we are wholly committed to genuine black majority rule in Rhodesia."

2. "We are conscious of Britain's responsibilities towards Rhodesia a firm view on the part of all the leaders to whom [Lord Harlech] spoke was that a solution to the Rhodesian problem must stem from the British Government as the legally responsible authority."

3. "We shall aim to make the proposals comparable to the basis on which we granted independence to other former British territories in Africa Secondly, [it] [our proposals] will be similar to the basis upon which independence has been granted to other African states."

4. "Terrible war still rages in Rhodesia It is imperative that we seek a solution that contributes to a better and more secure future for the people of Rhodesia and of the neighbouring countries [Our proposals] will be addressed to all the parties to the conflict."

CHGM

5. Our aim is, as I stated it during our opening session, to bring Rhodesia to legal independence on a basis which the Commonwealth and the international community as a whole will find acceptable.

6. "I refer of course to the provisions which make it possible for the white minority to block in the Parliament constitutional changes that would be unwelcome to them. This is a valid criticism - such a blocking mechanism has not appeared in any other independence constitution agreed by the British Parliament. It is clearly wrong that the

House of Commons

5. Our concern is to find a solution which, while acceptable to other governments, will enable the white community to play a full part in the future of the country.

[Lord Carrington in the House of Lords on 10 July]: "It is the government's intention, when our consultations have been completed, to make firm proposals of our own, stemming from the British Government as the constitutionally responsible authority, to bring Rhodesia to legal independence on a basis which we believe should be acceptable to the international community."

6. We shall aim to make the proposals comparable to the basis on which we granted independence to other former British territories in Africa. There has been criticism of the blocking power of the white minority, and the character and powers of the public service commissions. Our concern is to find a solution which, while acceptable to other governments, will