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Subject file Rhodesia
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FM FCO 071300Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE CAPTOWN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 62 OF 6 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY

PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 723 ^{AS} / 80

YOUR TELNO 86: RHODESIA: MESSAGE FROM P W BOTHA

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR BOTHA.

BEGINS

DEAR PRIME MINISTER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 4 FEBRUARY ABOUT RHODESIA. I AM GLAD THAT SIR ANTONY DUFF WAS ABLE TO GIVE YOU A FULL BRIEF ON THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA, AND AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HAVING RECEIVED HIM.

I FULLY SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN PARTS OF RHODESIA. THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN RHODESIA, INCLUDING M.L.NKOMO, ARE NO LESS WORRIED. AS YOU WILL HAVE HEARD, THE GOVERNOR HAS REQUIRED ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO RENEW THE PLEDGE GIVEN AT LANCASTER HOUSE TO CAMPAIGN PEACEFULLY AND WITHOUT INTIMIDATION. HE HAS ALSO PROMULGATED AN ORDINANCE ON 6 FEBRUARY TAKING POWERS TO IMPOSE PENALTIES ON PARTIES WHICH PRACTISE INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE. THESE INCLUDE THE POWER TO PROHIBIT FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE CAMPAIGN SPEAKERS GUILTY OF INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE: TO PROHIBIT MEETINGS BY A PARTY IN AN AREA WHICH IT IS PREVENTING OTHER PARTIES FROM CAMPAIGNING FREELY: AND, IN THE LAST RESORT, TO DISQUALIFY A PARTY WHICH IS GUILTY OF SYSTEMATIC BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRE IN ONE OR MORE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS FROM THE ELECTIONS IN THE AREA CONCERNED. I HOPE THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE WILL IN ITSELF EXERT GREATER PRESSURE ON ALL PARTIES, AND PARTICULARLY ZANU(PF) WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREATER MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS OF INTIMIDATION, TO COMPLY

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MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENTS. IT WILL BE FOR THE GOVERNOR TO DECIDE WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT THE USE OF THE POWERS. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE FREE AND FAIR.

ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES HAS DECLINED STEEPLY, BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRE CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED, ABOVE ALL IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNOR HAS DEPLOYED RHODESIAN FORCES WHERE NECESSARY TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN DEALING WITH THESE.

I SHALL REPLY SEPARATELY TO YOUR LETTER OF 5 JANUARY, WHICH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

YOURS SINCERELY
MARGARET THATCHER
ENDS
CARRINGTON

NNNN

FILES

PS/LPS

RHODESIA DEPT

PS/MR LUCE

NEWS DEPT

PS/PUS

OID

SIR D MAITLAND

PUSD

MR BYATT

PS

MR ASPIN