



T 7/80

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
21 PRINCE'S GATE
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SERIAL No. T 7/80

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11th January, 1980

Madame Prime Minister,

I have the honour to transcribe hereunder, text of a Telegram I have received today from President William R. Tolbert, Jr., current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity addressed to your goodself:

"I HAVE RECEIVED WITH GREAT CONCERN NEWS REPORT OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ZIMBABWE STOP YOU WILL RECALL CMA MADAM PRIME MINISTER CMA THAT DURING THE LANCASTER HOUSE TALKS YOUR GOVERNMENT GAVE ASSURANCES THAT UPON THE ARRIVAL OF LORD SOAMES IN ZIMBABWE ALL FOREIGN TROOPS INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN STOP WE CANNOT FORGET THAT THE QUESTION OF THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ZIMBABWE WAS AN ISSUE OF GRAVE CONCERN DURING THE TALKS AND BECAUSE OF THE ASSURANCES GIVEN US BY YOUR GOVERNMENT WE IN TURN REASSURED THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ZIMBABWE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THE BRITISH GOVERNOR IN SALISBURY STOP I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT REPORTS OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ZIMBABWE CMA WOULD HAVE THE MOST UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF ERODING CONFIDENCE IN THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENT AND WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PROCESS LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE WITH GENUINE MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE STOP I THEREFORE IMPILORE YOU CMA MADAM PRIME MINISTER CMA TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES AS WOULD ENSURE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM ZIMBABWE IN ORDER THAT THE AGREEMENT SO PAINSTAKINGLY NEGOTIATED AND CONCLUDED IN LONDON MIGHT BE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED STOP IN CONVEYING OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CMA MADAM PRIME MINISTER CMA PLEASE ACCEPT THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM SINCERELY W. R. TOLBERT JR PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY".

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W. 1.



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Be pleased to accept, Madam Prime Minister, the assurances
of my highest esteem.


Francis A. Dennis
AMBASSADOR