

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Rhodesia: Message from Dr. Kissinger

Dr. Kissinger has passed the attached personal message to you through Sir Niko Henderson.

Much as I respect Dr. Kissinger, I think the message is a little off-beam in some respects. The "confrontation" (i.e. Front Line) states are pressing for much more than constitutional changes - they flatly reject the outcome of the elections and are inclined to dismiss proposals for constitutional change as mere cosmetic tinkering. It is certainly true that Bishop Muzorewa's "constitutionality" is a major asset to him: but, equally, some features of the constitution - especially the Commission's - are a source of weakness to him.

I think the comparison with Nicaragua is a little far-fetched.

May I ask for Lord Carrington's comments on the message?

No need!

ant.

Bill

P-a.
Bill
20/7

19 July 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

OWONF0019/19

PP F C O

GR 200

DEDIP

CONFIDENTIAL

DEDIP

FM WASHINGTON 182322Z JUL 79

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1992 OF 18 JULY 1979

0347
X
NO DISTRIBUTION

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR WHITMORE, NO 10
FROM AMBASSADOR (NO OTHER DISTRIBUTION)
BISHOP MUZOREWA

1. KISSINGER HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT MRS THATCHER TOLD HIM THAT HE COULD SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH ME FOR HER EYES ONLY. HE NOW WISHED TO DO THIS.
2. HE WANTED THE PRIME MINISTER TO BE IN NO DOUBT OF HIS VIEW WHICH WAS THAT THOSE WHO WERE PRESSING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN THE CONFRONTATION STATES, WERE REALLY SEEKING TO UNDERMINE MUZOREWA. IN KISSINGER'S VIEW MUZOREWA'S CONSTITUTIONALITY WAS HIS MAIN ASSET.
3. HIS IMPRESSION WHEN HE SAW MUZOREWA HERE WAS THAT HE WAS DISCOURAGED. KISSINGER'S VIEW IS THAT MUZOREWA IS NOT INFINITELY RESILIENT: HE COULD BREAK. HIS FEELING, AS INDEED KISSINGER'S, IS THAT THESE IDEAS FOR TINKERING WITH THE NUMBERS OF WHITES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION MUST BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT WE ARE REALLY TRYING TO DO. TO KISSINGER SUCH MANOEUVRES ARE LIKE TRYING TO SQUARE THE CIRCLE AND WE WILL END UP WITH ANOTHER NICARAGUA.
4. IN TRANSMITTING THIS MESSAGE I SHOULD ADD THAT I DO NOT THINK KISSINGER IS EXPECTING ANY REPLY.

HENDERSON