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no indication PM had seen*

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FM FCO 061140Z MAR 80

TO FLASH KUALA LUMPUR

TELNO 108 OF 6 MAR

INFO FLASH SALISBURY, ROUTINE LUSAKA, DAR ES SALAAM, MAPUTO, LAGOS,  
CAPETOWN, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK.

M I P T

Read in full.

YOUR TELSNOs 964 AND 965: ASSISTANCE TO RHODESIA

1. I ENDORSE YOUR GENERAL AIM OF HELPING THE NEW GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE TRANSITIONAL PROCESS AND GIVING THE WHITES CONFIDENCE IN THEIR FUTURE PROSPECTS, AND AM CONTENT WITH THE GENERAL THRUST OF YOUR PROPOSALS. BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE DRAWN TOO FAR IN THE DIRECTION OF A CONTINUING DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA WHICH WE MIGHT LATER REGRET. I AM CONCERNED TOO NOT TO PUT US IN A POSITION WHERE WE RISK BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE AFTER INDEPENDENCE FOR THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF SUCH CONTENTIOUS POLICIES AS AFRICANISATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

PRE-INDEPENDENCE

2. ONCE MUGABE APPOINTS HIS MINISTERS, THEY WILL UNDERSTANDABLY WISH TO BEGIN TO EXERCISE THEIR POWERS VERY SOON. WHILE IT MAY TAKE THEM A WEEK OR SO TO GET SETTLED IN TO THEIR OFFICES, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL RAPIDLY BECOME FRUSTRATED THEREAFTER IF THEY CANNOT START TAKING DECISIONS. THEY WILL ALSO BE IN AN ANOMALOUS POSITION VIS-A-VIS THEIR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO YOU. IT DOES NOT SEEM WISE TO ME TO ALLOW THIS SITUATION TO CONTINUE FOR MORE THAN A VERY LIMITED TIME. I SHOULD BE RELUCTANT TO AGREE THAT YOU SHOULD DELEGATE ANY OF YOUR POWERS TO MINISTERS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. IT WOULD BE UNWISE THEREFORE, IN MY VIEW, TO POSTPONE INDEPENDENCE BEYOND THE LAST WEEK OF THIS MONTH OR, AT THE OUTSIDE THE FIRST DAYS OF APRIL. I HOPE THAT, IN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, YOU CAN BEGIN TO FOCUS EXPECTATIONS ON THIS PERIOD.

3. I AGREE THERE SHOULD BE A FITTING INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY. THE QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION AT THIS IS BEING DEALT WITH SEPARATELY.

POST-INDEPENDENCE

4. I ASSUME THAT YOU WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR VARIOUS PROPOSALS UNDER THIS HEADING HAVE MUGABE'S EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT AS WELL AS THAT OF RHODESIAN OFFICIALS. ON MILITARY TRAINING, WE AWAIT GENERAL PERKINS' RECOMMENDATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW UP THE

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/ POSSIBILITY

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POSSIBILITY FOR POLICE TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AN EARLY VISIT BY AN EXPERT FROM THE CSD. BUT I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF OUR GETTING INVOLVED IN AFRICANISATION OF THE POLICE AND CIVIL SERVICE AS OPPOSED TO OFFERING GENERAL ADVICE ON ORGANISATION, TRAINING AND PROCEDURES. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION REGULATES PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE POLICE AND CIVIL SERVICE. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR US TO APPEAR IN ANY WAY TO BE RESPONSIBLE EITHER FOR TRYING TO IMPOSE AFRICANISATION AT A FASTER RATE THAN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD TOLERATE OR FOR APPEARING TO OBSTRUCT IT. IN ANY CASE, MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT YOU DO NOT ENVISAGE THE TRAINING AND ADVISORY GROUP AS SUCH BEING PRESENT FOR MORE THAN A FEW MONTHS (THOUGH WE SHALL OF COURSE BE WILLING TO PROVIDE CONTINUING ADVICE UNDER TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS TRAINING IN THE UK). IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY CAN DO MORE IN THAT TIME THAN PRODUCE GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. RESTRUCTURING OF ZRBC SEEMS TO ME A TASK FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN YOUR INTERIM ADMINISTRATION: WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER INDEPENDENCE BEFORE SENDING AN EXPERT. MEANWHILE WE WILL TAKE SOME SOUNDINGS OF THE BBC.

6. I AGREE THAT WE SHOULD DEFER A DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A SENIOR FIGURE. IF WE DO GO FOR SOME SUCH ARRANGEMENT, I WOULD NOT WANT HIM TO STAY FOR MORE THAN 2 OR 3 MONTHS.

7. IN PURSUING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MR MUGABE AND WITH OFFICIALS, I AM SURE YOU WILL SEEK TO PRESERVE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED TO BE SEEN TO HELP ON THE ONE HAND: AND TO AVOID GETTING US TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED ON THE OTHER.

8. MIFT CONTAINS COMMENTS ON YOUR DRAFT STATEMENT.

CARRINGTON

FILES

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OADS  
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PUSD  
PLANNING STAFF  
CCD  
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ECD (E)  
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LEGAL ADVS.  
(MR FREELAND)  
(MR FIFOOT)

ECON D  
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PS/MR LUCE  
PS/MR RIDLEY  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/MR MARTEN  
PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND  
SIR A ACLAND  
LORD N G LENNOX  
SIR L ALLINSON  
MR DAY  
MR FERGUSSON  
MR MILLS  
CPO  
ADDITIONAL DISTN.  
RHODESIA POLICY

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