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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

18 December 1979

Princie *Princie* (2)

Dear Michael,

H. Prins

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Rhodesia : Arrangements for Implementation of Settlement

You asked recently about the arrangements we are making both for the monitoring force and for supervising the elections.

The monitoring force will number some 1,200 men, of whom 800 will be British and the remainder from Australia, New Zealand, Kenya and Fiji. 450 will be actual monitors; the remainder will provide administrative and logistic support. They will be deployed at border crossing points, assembly points for Patriotic Front forces and at the bases of the Rhodesian defence force, down to company level. Major items of equipment that are being flown out, partly in US aircraft, are 136 Landrovers (many of them steel-plated for protection against mines), 6 Puma helicopters, 6 Gazelle helicopters and a large number of radios.

The ceasefire monitoring group is under the overall command of the Governor's Military Adviser, Major-General Acland. Its headquarters will be in Salisbury. The first trooping and transport flights will arrive in Salisbury approximately a week after agreement is reached, with a further day or two for deployment in the country.

The Election Commissioner, Sir John Boynton, flew to Salisbury with the Governor. His Deputy Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners (all three senior men with experience in the Overseas Civil Service) have already been in Salisbury for several weeks to start advance preparations with the Rhodesians. For the six week period leading up to the elections and the elections themselves, there will be a team of two senior officials (one with relevant experience in the former British Colonial administration and the other with relevant experience in local government at a senior level) in each of the eight electoral regions. They will be followed about two weeks later by a further 64 supervisors to give us a presence in each of the 54 electoral districts, with an extra ten to cover areas where additional UK representation is required. In the last ten days

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or so before the elections and during the poll, there will be a further ten supervisors to help the teams in the larger urban areas. Finally, there will be a group of 25 or 30 distinguished former Colonial Governors, retired senior Ambassadors and others with relevant experience who will be present for the last two weeks or so of the campaign and during the elections. They will be largely independent of Sir John Boynton but will contribute to his report.

Some of them may accompany groups of Commonwealth or other observers in the country for the elections.

yours etc
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary