

FM LUSAKA 071600Z AUG

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM

OF 7 AUGUST

CHGM

1. THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE AN ON THE RECORD OPEN PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TODAY AT 12.15 PM. FOLLOWING IS EDITED TRANSCRIPT:

WASHINGTON STAR: THERE ARE REPORTS FROM PRETORIA TODAY THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY SAID THEY WILL SUPPORT THE MUZOREWA GOVERNMENT IF IT REJECTS THIS CURRENT PACE PLAN. HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT YOU CAN GET SALISBURY TO THE BARGAINING TABLE?

PRIME MINISTER: WELL I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT SALISBURY WILL COME TO THE BARGAINING TABLE. I ALSO SAW BISHOP MUZOREWA'S STATEMENT AND I THINK I MUST MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR, I DON'T THINK WE WOULD HAVE GOT AS FAR AS WE HAVE AND SO QUICKLY AS WE HAVE UNLESS WE HAD IN RHODESIA AN ELECTION ON THE BASIS OF ONE PERSON ONE VOTE. AS PRESIDENT NYERERE STATED VERY GRAPHICALLY IN HIS OPENING SPEECH ON THE DEBATE ON RHODESIA, THIS RESULTED IN A BLACK PRESIDENT, A BLACK PRIME MINISTER, AND A MAJORITY OF BLACK RHODESIANS IN THE PARLIAMENT. THAT WAS A TREMENDOUS STEP FORWARD, AND PROVIDED THE BASIS OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS TIME. BUT AS YOU KNOW SOME PARTIES DID NOT ACTUALLY FIGHT THAT ELECTION, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE INVITED, PARTICULARLY BY SITHOLE, TO DO SO. SO WE NOW HAVE TO GO AHEAD TO GET A CONSTITUTION UPON WHICH FULLY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WITH ALL PARTIES WILL BE HELD, AND I BELIEVE THEY WILL COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

CYPRUS RADIO AND TV: COULD YOU PLEASE CLARIFY THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND WHETHER THE £200 MILLION TO BE PAID BY BRITAIN TO CYPRUS IS STERLING OR CYPRUS POUNDS.

/PRIME MINISTER: I AM

PRIME MINISTER: I AM SORRY, I CANT GO INTO DETAILS ON THAT.

PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SPOKE TO ME ABOUT THESE MATTERS WHILE HE WAS HERE AND I SAID I WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING: THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE CALLED BISHOP MUZOREWA A TRAITOR, AND SAID THEY WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH A TRAITOR. HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT YOU CAN GET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO THIS CONFERENCE.

PRIME MINISTER: I CAN ONLY ISSUE INVITATIONS ON THE BASIS THAT THIS IS WHAT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IS EXPECTING ME TO DO AND IS SUPPORTING ME IN DOING. THE COMMONWEALTH IS PUTTING CONFIDENCE IN BRITAIN AND WE ARE THE POWER TO GO AHEAD AND DO IT. WE SHALL IN FACT TRY TO CARRY OUT THE DUTY THEY HAVE PLACED UPON US AND WE HOPE THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM, INSOFAR AS THEY ARE ABLE, WILL BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO COME ALONG TO A CONFERENCE TO GET THE NEW CONSTITUTION IN THE FIRST PLACE.

QUESTIONER: THERE WAS A REPORT THAT YOU SAID THE U S WAS NOT GOING TO PLAY A ROLE IN RHODESIA. THE U S HAS A ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH IN TURN HAS INFLUENCE ON RHODESIA.

PRIME MINISTER: WELL THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT EXPECT TO PLAY A ROLE IN ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. I HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST SHADOW OF DOUBT THAT WHEN WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN COMPLETING ALL THE PROCESSES, SET OUT AT THIS CONFERENCE, THE U S WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO RECOGNISE AN EXCELLENT CONSTITUTION. I BELIEVE THAT THE U S WOULD BE VERY COOPERATIVE. WE DID HAVE A VERY HELPFUL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER YESTERDAY SUPPORTING US IN THE WISE MOVES WE WERE TAKING. THEY ARE BEING VERY HELPFUL, AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL.

QUESTION: THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT YOUR FOREIGN SECRETARY FLEW TO SALISBURY YESTERDAY.

PRIME MINISTER: THEY ARE TOTALLY AND UTTERLY FALSE. DIDNT YOU SEE HIM AROUND? NO HE DID NOT GO TO SALISBURY. THE VC10 CAME BACK TO TAKE US BACK ON WEDNESDAY. WE CANT GO BACK WITHOUT AN AEROPLANE.

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF A RECEPTION YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR OWN PARTY NOW THAT YOUR STAND HAS DRASTICALLY CHANGED SINCE COMING TO LUSAKA?

PRIME MINISTER: I HATE TO DISILLUSION YOU, BUT MY STAND HAS NOT DRASTICALLY CHANGED SINCE COMING TO LUSAKA. WE CAREFULLY HAD DEBATES ON RHODESIA IN PARLIAMENT BEFORE WE CAME AND WE SET OUT THE MAIN LINES OF THE APPROACH WHICH WE WERE GOING TO TAKE HERE. THEY WERE DERIVED FROM THE VERY EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WE HAD HAD WITH THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND OTHERS BEFORE COMING HERE. I IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND LORD CARRINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS. THE REALLY NEW THING THIS TIME IN A COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE HAS BEEN THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL WILL AND DESIRE TO TRY TO GET AGREEMENT ON THE WAY FORWARD. IF YOU LOOK AT MY POSITION IT HAS BEEN PRETTY WELL THE SAME THE WHOLE TIME. THE ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA WERE A TREMENDOUS STEP FORWARD, BUT WE WERE STILL LEFT WITH SOME DEFECTS IN THE CONSTITUTION, AND SOME CONSIDERABLE OTHER PROBLEMS. ONE WHICH HAS BOTHERED US, WAS HOW TO BRING AN END TO THE HOSTILITIES. BECAUSE THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR ANY COUNTRY IF YOUR CROPS CAN BE BURNED, YOUR CATTLE TAKEN, YOUR FAMILY KILLED. THERE IS NO FUTURE STABILITY IN ANY COUNTRY UNLESS YOU CAN BRING THAT TO AN END, AND I BELIEVE THE PRESENT COMMUNIQUE OFFERS SOME HOPE OF THAT. AND THE OTHER THING WAS HOW TO BRING AS MANY COUNTRIES ALONG WITH US AS POSSIBLE IN RECOGNISING RHODESIA. NOW THOSE TWO THINGS WILL EXPLAIN THE COURSE WE HAVE TAKEN. BUT YOU WILL FIND AN ASTONISHING CONSISTENCY ABOUT THEM IF YOU LOOK BACK INTO TIME.

QUESTION: I WAS THINKING MWOUT THE STATEMENT YOU WERE REPORTED TO HAVE MADE IN AUSTRALIA IN WHICH BRIATIN WAS TO LIFT SANCTIONS AND RECOGNISE RHODESIA.

PRIME MINISTER: NO, WOULD YOU LOOK IN FACT AT THE QUESTION I WAS ASKED AND THE REPLY I GAVE. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER WE WOULD GET A NEW ORDER FOR SANCTIONS THROUGH PARLIAMENT. WE ARE NOW TRYING TO DO - IT WILL START VERY QUICKLY ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND I HOPE WE WILL HAVE GOT SOME VERY CONSIDERABLE WAY BEFORE THE QUESTION EVER ARISES IN NOVEMBER, AND THAT WAS ALWAYS OUR STRATEGY AND OUR TACTIC. SO I HOPE WE WILL BE A LONG WAY ALONG THE PATH BEFORE THAT ARISES.

/VOICE OF

VOICE OF AMERICA: QUOTING THE BBC THIS MORNING, MR BOTHA SAID THAT WHAT HAS GONE ON HERE IS AN UNACCEPTABLE MANOEUVRE AND ALSO THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRETORIA. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHAT YOU ARE TELLING THEM AND HOW MUCH YOU EXPECT TO BE WORKING THROUGH THIS CHANNEL IN ORDER TO BRING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN SALISBURY TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE?

PRIME MINISTER: WELL I MUST BEG TO DISAGREE WITH MR BOTHA. TO US THIS IS THE POSSIBLE WAY THROUGH. I DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING THROUGH. I NEVER DO. I AM NOT A STARRY EYED POLITICIAN. THIS HAS BEEN ON THE TABLE IN BRITAIN SOME 15 YEARS, BUT I DO THINK THERE IS MORE HOPE NOW OF GETTING IT THROUGH. OF COURSE WE ARE IN TOUCH THROUGH OUR EMBASSIES ALMOST ACROSS THE WORLD IN ANY COUNTRY THAT HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM. AND WE ARE OF COURSE IN TOUCH IN THE SAME WAY WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS WE ARE WITH MANY MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: YOU SAID YOU WOULD GET ALL THIS PROBLEM OUT OF THE WAY SO THERE WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM WHEN SANCTIONS CAME UP FOR RENEWAL IN NOVEMBER. BUT YOU HAVE ANOTHER DEADLINE IN YOUR OWN PARTY CONFERENCE. WHAT TIMETABLE DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

PRIME MINISTER: ONE CAN'T GIVE A VERY STRICT TIMETABLE. I CAN TELL YOU THAT WE ARE HAVING A CABINET MEETING ON FRIDAY MORNING TO SORT OUT THE PROPOSALS, AND THEN WE SHALL HOPE VERY QUICKLY TO SEND OUT INVITATIONS TO A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. IF THOSE ARE ACCEPTED, WE CAN GET ON WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WELL BEFORE THE PARTY CONFERENCE. I BELIEVE THAT MY OWN PARTY WILL ACCEPT THAT THIS IS THE WAY FORWARD; THEY ARE JUST AS CONCERNED AS I AM TO SECURE AN END TO HOSTILITIES. THEY KNOW THE POSITION IN RHODESIA: 1,000 WHITE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEAVING THERE EVERY MONTH, SOME 500 PEOPLE, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE BLACK, ARE BEING KILLED EVERY WEEK IN RHODESIA. THE WAR CONTINUES. WHAT KIND OF FUTURE DOES THAT OFFER ANYONE IN RHODESIA IF THE WAR GOES ON? THERE IS NO FUTURE UNLESS WE CAN STOP THAT, AND THE WHOLE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS COMMUNIQUE IS THAT IT OFFERS A WAY OF STOPPING THAT, THAT IS A TREMENDOUS PRIZE, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE FOR RHODESIA - A TREMENDOUS PRIZE ALSO FOR THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY TOO EXPERIENCE VERY CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES ECONOMICALLY AND PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF THE WAR. I THINK MY OWN PARTY WILL BE THE FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

/AUSTRALIAN

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING: PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO PRESSURE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THEY WILL BE AT THE TALKS. HE SEEMED TO THINK THE PROBLEM YOU HAD WOULD BE GETTING BISHOP MUZOREWA AND IAN SMITH THERE. ON WHAT TERMS DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET THE RHODESIANS TO COME?

PRIME MINISTER: IF JULIUS NYERERE CAN DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEMS, I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT THAT I CAN DEAL WITH MINE. I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL COME FOR EXACTLY THE SAME REASONS AS I HAVE BEEN POINTING OUT. THE PRIZE, IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, IS ENORMOUS, PARTICULARLY FOR ALL THE RHODESIANS. THESE POSSIBILITIES WOULD NOT BE OPENING UP UNLESS YOU HAD ALREADY GOT IN RHODESIA, AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE INSIDE RHODESIA, ONE PERSON ONE VOTE LEADING TO, IN JULIUS NYERERE'S WORDS, BLACK PRESIDENT, BLACK PRIME MINISTER BLACK MAJORITY PARLIAMENT.

QUESTION: BUT WHAT STATUS WILL THE MUZOREWA GOVERNMENT HAVE AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE?

PRIME MINISTER: WE REALLY HAVENT GOT AS FAR AS DEFINING EACH AND EVERY STATUS. ALL OF THIS HAS TO GO BEFORE MY CABINET. UNTIL IT DOES WE CANNOT GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS.

CANADA: WHAT WOULD BRITAIN DO IF BISHOP MUZOREWA WONT COME TO THE BARGAINING TABLE?

PRIME MINISTER: I AM ALWAYS BEING ASKED WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SOMEONE WONT COME. I DONT THINK WE SHOULD START OFF ON THAT BASIS. WE SHALL ISSUE INVITATIONS AND WE ARE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THEY WILL COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. IF THEY ARE NOT, ALL RIGHT WE HAVE TO THINK AGAIN.

QUESTION: WOULD THE DISCUSSION BE VALID IF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN SALISBURY IS NOT REPRESENTED?

PRIME MINISTER: WE ARE WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT EVERYONE WHO IS INVITED WILL COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. YOU OBVIOUSLY CANT HAVE A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR RHODESIA UNLESS INTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES OF RHODESIA ARE THERE. IT IS JUST NOT POSSIBLE.

AUSTRALIAN TV: IF THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS NOT ACCEPTED ARE YOU THEN PREPARED TO GO ABOUT RENEWING SANCTIONS?

/PRIME MINISTER: YOU

PRIME MINISTER: YOU ARE AGAIN TRYING TO GET MUCH FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD THAN ONE CAN POSSIBLY GET. YOU CANNOT FORETELL WHAT WILL HAPPEN. WE HAVE FIRST TO TRY TO GET A NEW CONSTITUTION. UNTIL WE GET THAT WE CANNOT SAY EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THAT. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE HAVE THE SIGNATURE OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF 39 NATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN SUPPORTING US ON THE COURSE UPON WHICH WE HAVE EMBARKED AND GIVING US THEIR FULL CONFIDENCE TO EMBARK UPON IT. THIS I BELIEVE IS THE MOST ENCOURAGING THING THAT HAS HAPPENED, AND GIVES US AN EXCELLENT BASIS COUPLED WITH THE PREVIOUS ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA, THE POSSIBILITY OF ENDING HOSTILITIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING OTHER NATIONS TO RECOGNISE THE BEST BASIS WE HAVE EVER HAD. WE CAN ONLY TAKE THAT AND USE IT.

VOICE OF GERMANY: DO YOU ENVISAGE IN A RETURN TO LEGALITY THE USE OF BRITISH TROOPS AT ANY TIME?

PRIME MINISTER: NO. WE HAVE NO CONTEMPLATION OF THE USE OF BRITISH TROOPS. THE WORD SUPERVISION IN THE COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION. I HAVE NO CONTEMPLATION WHATSOEVER OF THE USE OF BRITISH TROOPS.

NZPA: DO YOU EXPECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS TO BE HELD IN LONDON?

PRIME MINISTER: I WOULD NOT QUARREL WITH THAT CONCLUSION.

IRN: IN THE LIGHT OF WHATS COME OUT OF THE AGREEMENT DO YOU NOW ACCEPT THAT THE APRIL ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA WERE NOT FAIR AND FREE?

PRIME MINISTER: WOULD YOU PLEASE LOOK AT MY ANSWER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THAT. NO, I AM SORRY, I THINK NOONE WOULD SAY, CERTAINLY WE WOULD NOT SAY, THAT THOSE ELECTIONS AS SUCH WERE NOT FREE AND FAIR. THAT IS NOT THE PROBLEM. THE QUESTION IS THE CONSTITUTION. YOU HAVE SEEN THE BOYD REPORT. HE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT TECHNICALLY THEY WERE FREE AND FAIR. WE HAVE NOT OURSELVES MADE A FINAL DETERMINATION. I DONT THINK THERE IS ANY REASON TO DISSENT FROM OUR OBSERVERS THERE, BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN THE PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS THE CONSTITUTION ON WHICH THOSE ELECTIONS WERE HELD, AND WHILE THE VAST MAJORITY OF IT IS VERY SIMILAR TO CONSTITUTIONS WE HAVE GIVEN TO OTHER PEOPLE, THERE ARE TWO PARTICULAR FACTORS. /ONE

ONE IS THE BLOCKING MECHANISM FOR ALTERING THAT CONSTITUTION, BECAUSE YOU KNOW IT REQUIRES 78 OUT OF 100 PEOPLE IN THE PARLIAMENT TO VOTE FOR A CHANGE, WHICH IS HIGHER THAN ANY OTHER AND WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST 6 WHITES TO VOTE FOR BLACK MEMBERS. AND THE OTHER IS THE COMMISSIONS. AND THE CRITICISM HAS COME FAR MORE ON THE CONSTITUTION THAN ON THE MANNER OF CONDUCTING THE ELECTIONS. AFTER ALL YOU THE WORLDS PRESS WERE INTO THE ELECTIONS. I DIDNT HEAR YOU CRITICISE.

QUESTION: NOW THAT THE QUEEN HAS LEFT SAFELY AND YOU ARE STILL HERE, HOW WOULD YOU REGARD THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY?

PRIME MINISTER: WE SEEM TO HAVE HAD RATHER A LOT OF PEOPLE GUARDING US AND THEY HAVE BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL. WE ARE STILL HERE.

QUESTION: PRESIDENT NYERERE REFERRED TO THE RESETTLEMENT FUND FOR THE RHODESIAN WHITES, AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN MORE TALK OF IT AND IF BRITAIN WOULD FUND THAT.

PRIME MINISTER: THERE HAS BEEN NO MORE TALK OF IT AT ALL. WE HAVENT GOT AROUND TO TALKING ABOUT THOSE PARTICULAR THINGS. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS IN ADDITION TO A CONSTITUTION, BUT THE FIRST HURDLE IS A CONSTITUTION, AND WE WILL TACKLE THAT FIRST.

RADIO DENMARK: WHICH PARTIES WILL BE INVITED FROM RHODESIA, WILL IT JUST BE THE GOVERNMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: WE WILL HAVE TO SORT THIS OUT AT THE CABINET THAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY.

ITN: YOU HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO PARTY HAS A VETO. IF THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO COME TO YOUR CONFERENCE ACCEPT A REASONABLE CONSTITUTION, BUT ONE PARTY DOESNT, ARE YOU PREPARED TO ENFORCE THAT CONSTITUTION IF NECESSARY?

PRIME MINISTER: I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ENFORCE A CONSTITUTION? YOU CANT ENFORCE A CONSTITUTION YOU CAN DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF CONSTITUTION WHICH THE OTHER FORMER COLONIAL TERRITORIES HAVE GOT ON INDEPENDENCE - WHAT SOME OF THEM HAVE DONE WITH IT SINCE INDEPENDENCE IS NOT FOR ME TO COMMENT UPON. THIS IS THE KIND OF CONSTITUTION WHICH BRITAIN GIVES UPON INDEPENDENCE. YOU CANNOT ENFORCE IT. YOU CAN ONLY SAY THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE DEFECTIVE IN THE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTION HAVE NOW GONE, LEAVING THE KIND OF A DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION ON WHICH WE WOULD GIVE INDEPENDENCE. THAT IS THE STATE THAT WE WOULD THEN GET TO. AND IT WOULD BE OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD TO SEE. BUT I CANT ENFORCE IT.

/ITN: IF

ITN: IF ONE PARTY REJECTS IT AND ALL THE OTHERS ACCEPT IT?

PRIME MINISTER: WE HAVE IN FACT TO SAY TO THE COMMONWEALTH WHO CHARGED US WITH FINDING A CONSTITUTION WHICH IS DEMOCRATIC: WE HAVE FOUND IT. LOOK AND SEE WHO DISAGREES.

MELBOURNE HERALD: IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED BY THE BRITISH PRESS THAT YOU WERE MIGHTILY DISPLEASED WITH WHAT WAS ALLEGED TO BE THE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE BY THE AUSTRALIANS OF THE WORDING OF THE COMMUNIQUE. IS THAT TRUE, AND IF SO WOULD MR FRASER BE OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST?

PRIME MINISTER: NO HE WOULD NOT BE OFF MY CHRISTMAS CARD LIST. THERE IS NO POINT IN GOING THROUGH WHAT HAPPENED AND WHERE. WE GOT THE COMMUNIQUE WE WANTED AND ITS A VERY GOOD ONE.

QUESTION: WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME TO LUSAKA TO SAY YOU WOULD PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS, WHY COULDN'T IT JUST HAVE BEEN YOUR PARTY'S CAMPAIGN AND YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY BEFORE COMING HERE.

PRIME MINISTER: ISN'T IT VERY MUCH BETTER NOT TO DO EVERYTHING BEFORE YOU COME TO LUSAKA, BUT TO CONSULT WITH YOUR PARTNERS. WHAT WE HAVE GOT NOW IS THE RESULT WHICH I THINK GIVES US THE BEST CHANCE OF GOING AHEAD. LOOK AT THE RESULTS AND THE POSSIBILITIES, NOT AT THE WHY NOTS.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT BRITISH TROOPS WERE NOT AN ISSUE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID EARLIER THAT IF IN 1965 THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN THE WILL TO ENFORCE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AGAINST UNILATERAL ACTION IN RHODESIA, PERHAPS WE MIGHT NOT BE IN THE SITUATION WE ARE NOW. IS THERE ANY KIND OF TROOP COMMITMENT HIDDEN IN THE BACKGROUND?

PRIME MINISTER : NONE WHATSOEVER.

JOHN DICKIE, DAILY MAIL: WHAT MAKES YOU CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN DELIVER THE GOODS WHICH A SUCCESSION OF PREVIOUS PRIME MINISTERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO WITH THE AFRICANS AND THE FRONT LINE STATES? IS IT PERHAPS YOUR ABILITY TO DANCE WELL WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA?

PRIME MINISTER: I DON'T SINK TO THAT SORT OF TRITE REMARK. SELF CONFIDENCE IS NOT MY FORTE. BUT I AM A JOLLY GOOD TRIER.



PRIME MINISTER: THERE IS A CHANGED SITUATION FIRST, THERE IS NOW IN RHODESIA ONE PERSON ONE VOTE UPON WHICH ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD. SO THE PEOPLE IN RHODESIA WERE ABLE TO ELECT THEIR OWN PRIME MINISTD

FROM THOSE CANDIDATES WHO PRESENTED THEMSELVES AT ELECTION. THAT ITSELF WAS A TREMENDOUS ADVANCE AND WE MUST NEVER UNDERESTIMATE IT. SECOND, ALL THE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE HOSTS TO THE DISPUTE, GENUINELY WANT TO END THE HOSTILITIES. THEY REALISED IF WE DONT HAVE A TRY NOW THE CHANCE MAY BE LOST FOREVER. THIRD THINGS CANNOT GO ON LIKE THIS IN RHODESIA, YOU DO NEED REASONABLE PEACE IN WHICH TO CONTINUE YOUR LIFE. FOURTH, THERE HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC CONVERGENCE OF WILL IN THIS COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, AND IT SEEMED THAT EVERYONE NOT ONLY WANTS THE SAME THING BUT IS PREPARED TO INVEST BRITAIN WITH THE CONFIDENCE TO GO AHEAD AND TRY TO DO IT. PLEASE DONT THINK THAT I UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES. I DONT. IT COULD STILL FOUNDED BUT WE MUST TRY BECAUSE I FEEL THAT IF WE DONT SUCCEED NOW THAT OPPORTUNITY MAY BE LOST FOR EVER.

INDIAN JOURNALIST: BEFORE THE CONSTITUTION COMES INTO BEING DO YOU ENVISAGE AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BEING SET UP.

PRIME MINISTER: THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TO TRY TO GET THE NEW CONSTITUTION. UNTIL WE HAVE GOT THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN THINKING BEYOND THAT STAGE. LETS TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME. WHEN WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DOING THAT WELL THEN WE HAVE TO NEGOTIATE THE NEXT STEP

SWAPO INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY: ON 8 MAY 1978 THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS INVADDED ANGOLA AND MASSACRED MORE THAN 800 WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE UNARMED, AND IT HAS NOW COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE READING PUBLIC THAT PLESSEY COMPANY IN SOUTH AFRICA IS GIVING OR SELLING MOST UP TO DATE RADAR SYSTEM TO SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY, AND THAT THE ARMY IS FULLY INTEGRATED WITH THE BRITISH ARMY. TALKING ABOUT NAMIBIA, WHICH IS NEITHER ENGLISH NOR AFRIKAANS, ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN AND MASSACRE THE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA WHO ARE BARELY ONE MILLION. BECAUSE IF YOU DO, THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE TOO GHASTLY TO CONTEMPLATE.

PRIME MINISTER: TWO POINTS. AS FAR AS NAMIBIA IS CONCERNED, WE ARE ONE OF THE FIVE NATIONS COMPRISING THE CONTACT GROUP. THERE IS ONE ENVOY NOW REPRESENTING THOSE FIVE NATIONS, JAMES MURRAY. HE GOES TO SOUTH AFRICA FURTHER TO NEGOTIATE THIS WEEKEND. SO LETS SEE WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. I HOPE THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. SECOND, AS FAR AS THE PLESSEY CONTRACT IS CONCERNED, IT WAS NEGOTIATED FULLY BY THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN CHARGE IN BRITAIN IN 1976. I DO NOT KNOW ITS DETAILS, WE WILL HAVE A LOOK AT IT WHEN WE GET BACK.

QUESTION: WE WERE TOLD BY JAMES CALLAGHAN THAT BRITAIN NEEDS NAMIBIAN URANIUM.

PRIME MINISTER: WELL, MAY I TELL YOU THAT WE ARE BUYING URANIUM FROM AUSTRALIA. URANIUM FROM NAMIBIA IS NOT A DECISIVE POINT.

AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST: AT WHAT STAGE IN THE PROCESS WOULD YOU BE HOPEFUL THERE COULD BE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN RHODESIA?

PRIME MINISTER: I THINK IF WE GET AN AGREED CONSTITUTION ONE WOULD HAVE REASON TO EXPECT THAT HOSTILITIES WOULD CEASE, CERTAINLY BEFORE ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE.

RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL: THE COMMONWEALTH HAS TAKEN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT POSITION FROM THE OAU SUMMIT, WHICH RECOGNISED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: INDEED, YES, I WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE COMMONWEALTH TOOK NO STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION WHATSOEVER. WHEN WE DEBATED RHODESIA IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE REJECTED THAT CONCLUSION OF THE OAU, THE LABOUR SIDE AND THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE. THE COMMONWEALTH HAS TAKEN BOTH A VERY MUCH MORE REALISTIC VIEW AND A VERY MUCH BETTER VIEW.

ZIMBABWE REPORTER: I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU DID NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT AND YOU WERE NOT WILLING TO MEET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE HERE IN LUSAKA DURING THE CONFERENCE?

PRIME MINISTER: WHEN YOU HAVE 39 CO-PARTNERS TO TALK TO, THATS QUITE A LOT IN THE TIME AVAILABLE. MR NKOMO DID MAKE OVERTURES AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET HIM, BUT IT NEVER CAME TO ANYTHING.