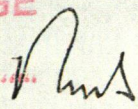


OPS

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CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T19/80



OP 450  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCQ 290018Z JAN 80  
TO IMMEDIATE MONROVIA  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 19 OF 29 JAN

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY, LUSAKA, MAPUTO, GABORONE, LAGOS,  
DAR ES SALAAM, NAIROBI, ABIDJAN, DAKAR, ACCRA, KAMPALA, KINSHASA,  
LLANDA, WASHINGTON, UMNIS NEW YORK, PRETORIA, LILONGWE, MBABANE,  
BANJUL, ADDIS ABABA, FREETOWN.

YOUR TELNO 9 (NOT TO ALL):  
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

1. PLEASE NOW PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO  
PRESIDENT TOLBERT.

BEGINS: QUOTE DEAR MR PRESIDENT,  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FURTHER LETTER OF 19 JANUARY. IN THE  
LIGHT OF THE CLOSE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT RHODESIA WHICH WE  
REACHED DURING YOUR VISIT LAST AUTUMN, I AM NATURALLY VERY  
CONCERNED BY THE SUGGESTION IN YOUR LETTER THAT THE BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT IS NOT SINCERE IN ITS COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE  
AGREEMENTS REACHED AT LANCASTER HOUSE. I SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE  
YOU OF OUR CONTINUED DETERMINATION TO CREATE THE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS  
IN WHICH FAIR ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD. AFTER ALL THAT WE DID TO  
ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, WE  
HAVE A VERY STRONG AND DIRECT INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING STRICT  
COMPLIANCE BY ALL PARTIES WITH THE AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE REACHED.

I HOPE THAT YOUR CONCERN OVER THE LIMITED SOUTH AFRICAN  
PRESENCE AT BEITBRIDGE WILL HAVE BEEN ALLAYED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
STATEMENT THAT THEY ARE WITHDRAWING THEIR TROOPS AS SOON AS  
SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. I RECOGNISE THE  
GENUINE CONCERN WHICH WAS FELT BY YOU AND MANY OF YOUR COLLEAGUES  
IN AFRICA ON THIS ISSUE. I HOPE THAT WE CAN NOW CONCENTRATE ON SOME  
VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES WITHIN RHODESIA - THE NEED TO BRING ABOUT  
FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CEASEFIRE, TO END INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE  
AND TO ESTABLISH THE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS FOR ELECTIONS - OVER WHICH  
WE NEED YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND THAT OF OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE SHARE A DEEP CONCERN AND DESIRE TO SEE  
RHODESIA COME PEACEFULLY TO INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS  
ON THE BASIS OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA THEMSELVES.  
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THIS COURSE. BUT I

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/BELIEVE

BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A SERIOUS RISK TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SETTLEMENT REACHED AT LANCASTER HOUSE IF ISSUES SUCH AS THOSE RAISED IN YOUR LETTER WERE, AT THIS DELICATE STAGE, DRAWN INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. THIS COULD HAVE A SERIOUSLY UNSETTLING EFFECT WITHIN RHODESIA ITSELF AS WELL AS GIVING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE LESS DIRECTLY INVOLVED TO UNDERMINE WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS NOW FULLY UNDER WAY AND ALL THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE RETURNED. THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES ARE LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY. IT IS VITAL THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THEM. I AM GENUINELY CONCERNED LEST ALL WE HAVE ACHIEVED TOGETHER SO FAR SHOULD NOW BE PUT IN JEOPARDY. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE MACHINERY PROVIDED FOR IN THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENTS. I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE THE OUTCOME WE ALL SEEK, RATHER THAN DEBATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, OR EVEN IN THE OAU.

I AM INSTRUCTING OUR AMBASSADOR TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH YOU. HE WILL BE ABLE TO REASSURE YOU ON THE DETAILED POINTS IN YOUR LETTER AND KEEP ME IN TOUCH WITH YOUR VIEWS. AS YOU KNOW, I PLACE GREAT VALUE ON YOUR SUPPORT AND ADVICE.

YOUR SINCERELY

MARGARET THATCHER UNQUOTE ENDS

CARRINGTON

FILES

RHOD D

OADS

NAD

PUSD

PLANNING STAFF

ES & SD

CCD

FRD

EID (E)

UND

LEGAL ADVISERS

(MR FREELAND)

(MR FIFOOT)

ECON D

PCD

DEF D

IPD

OID

NEWS D

PS

PS/SIR I GILMOUR

PS/MR LUCE

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR MARTEN

PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND

MR HANNAY

LORD N G LENNOX

MISS BROWN

MR DAY

MR FERGUSSON

MR ASPIN

MR MILLS

CPO

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
RHODESIA POLICY