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subject on Rhodesia: Swatini: PT8

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.130 F/79T

FM F.C.O. 301105Z OCT 79

TO IMMEDIATE DAR ES SALAAM

TELEGRAM NUMBER 352 OF 30 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND CANBERRA

MY TEL NO : 351 RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT NYERERE:-

DEAR JULIUS

RICHARD LUCE HAS GIVEN ME AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH YOU ON 23 OCTOBER ABOUT RHODESIA AND OUR PROPOSALS FOR THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE APPRECIATION YOU EXPRESSED OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT. I HAVE ALSO SEEN AN ACCOUNT OF YOUR CONVERSATION ON 28 OCTOBER WITH SIR PETER MOON.

TO AVOID ANY RISK OF MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US, PERHAPS I COULD EXPLAIN MORE FULLY OUR APPROACH AND THE WAY IN WHICH WE NOW INTEND TO PROCEED.

TO BEGIN WITH, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO LACK OF DETERMINATION ON OUR PART IN SEEKING TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN THIS STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE. AS YOU KNOW, MY GOVERNMENT REGARD IT AS BRITAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING RHODESIA TO LEGAL INDEPENDENCE, TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE FAIR AS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

IN OUR EARLIER EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES IN AUGUST, YOU URGED BRITAIN TO ACT AS THE DECOLONISING POWER. THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT MY GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DO AND HAS BEEN DOING.

WE HAVE BEEN TAKING ACTION TO GIVE EFFECT STEP BY STEP TO THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT. WE ARE READY TO CARRY OUT TO THE FULL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES. BUT WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GO WELL BEYOND THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT OR WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO EXERCISE OUR AUTHORITY. IT IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL HAVE TO ASSUME DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RHODESIA IN THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD. WE WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO DO SO UNDER CONDITIONS AND FOR A PERIOD IN WHICH WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS NOT A COMPLICATED

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TRANSITIONAL STRUCTURE, WHICH WOULD RENDER IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY, BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO BE ENABLED TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT GOVERNMENT THEY WANT IN FAIR ELECTIONS. THE LONGER THE INTERIM PERIOD LASTS BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES, THE GREATER WILL BE THE RISK OF A BREAKDOWN IN THE CEASE-FIRE. IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE'S INTERESTS THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THAT OPPORTUNITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER POWER TO ANY PARTY WHICH HAS NOT WON IT THROUGH FAIR ELECTIONS.

WHAT WE MUST SEEK IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES ON A GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM PERIOD - NAMELY THE REASSERTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY, A GOVERNOR WITH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXERCISING DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS. THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD INVOLVE BISHOP MUZOREWA AND HIS MINISTERS RELINQUISHING POWER TO ENABLE NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THOSE PROPOSALS, WHICH INVOLVE VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR HIM, IN THE INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. I SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO ASK A GREAT DEAL MORE OF HIM, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE OTHER DELEGATION HAVE FAILED TO AGREE.

YOU HAVE RAISED POINTS ABOUT THE COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE ROLE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S FORCES. THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES WILL BE UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE GOVERNOR AND WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT HIS AUTHORITY. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S FORCES WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE GOVERNOR, IN RELATION TO THE CEASE-FIRE. THERE WILL BE A CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GOVERNOR'S MILITARY ADVISER, ON WHICH THE COMMANDERS OF THE FORCES ON BOTH SIDES WILL BE REPRESENTED. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBSERVANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE WILL FALL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON THE COMMANDERS OF THE FORCES. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION ENABLES THE DULY ELECTED GOVERNMENT TO EXERT FULL CONTROL OVER THE ARMED FORCES. IT WILL BE FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO DECIDE WHO THEY WISH TO DO SO.

AT LUSAKA WE AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FORMED UNDER THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION MUST BE CHOSEN THROUGH FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, PROPERLY SUPERVISED UNDER BRITISH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY AND WITH COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS. I INTEND TO CARRY

OUT THAT COMMITMENT IN FULL. THERE IS ONE VERY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRESENT ATTEMPT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT AND THE ATTEMPTS WHICH HAVE PRECEDED IT: WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PUT THESE PLANS INTO EFFECT. IF THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PROCEED TO THE FINAL PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH MUST CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND ITS OBSERVANCE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE VERY MUCH EASIER TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THAT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF PRIOR AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF BRITISH AUTHORITY AND OUR GENERAL PROPOSALS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD.

I HOPE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL ACCEPT THE SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS, AND THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS. IN THAT EVENT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, A SOLUTION WILL BE WITHIN OUR GRASP. I CONSIDER, IF I MAY SAY SO, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING ITS PART IN FULFILMENT OF THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT, AND I HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT.

CARRINGTON

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