

BISHOP MUZOREWA TO LONDON

During her statement on the European Council in Strasbourg yesterday in the House, the Prime Minister mentioned in discussing Rhodesia that Bishop Muzorewa would be visiting the United States and had asked to see her en route. The Prime Minister said that she had, of course, agreed to have a meeting with the Bishop.

We cannot yet be specific about the date for the meeting. The papers today mention 11/12 July and there is no need to put journalists off this sort of timing.

The FCO are making the following points unattributably with trusted contacts in discussion:-

1. It is Bishop Muzorewa who has asked for the meeting - i.e. not part of some new initiative to recognise the Government in Salisbury.
2. We have said all along that we would consult as widely as possible in our efforts to bring about a return to legality in Rhodesia and it is therefore quite natural that British Ministers should see Bishop Muzorewa on his way through London if he expresses a wish to see them. It can be seen as part of the process of consultation.