



Original in C/K  
cc 710

55

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 July 1979

My dear Bishop.

I am grateful to you for writing to me on 19 June to express your concern over the consequences of the continuing war in Rhodesia. You urge the British Government to lift sanctions and to recognise the government in Salisbury which assumed office following the elections in April.

I and my colleagues in the British Cabinet share to the full your deep concern over the continuing bloodshed in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and the tragic consequences of the war for the people of your country. I am convinced that the best road to peace lies through Zimbabwe-Rhodesia's return to legal independence with the widest possible degree of international acceptance. In pursuit of this goal, the British Government have engaged in urgent consultations through which we hope to identify the best way forward. As you know, Lord Harlech has had talks with a number of Heads of Government in Southern Africa and he visited Salisbury on 2 July for talks with Bishop Muzorewa. I shall myself see Bishop Muzorewa in London tomorrow, following his discussions in Washington with President Carter. As Lord Carrington said in Parliament on 10 July, we hope, once our round of consultations is complete, to put forward proposals which will be accepted as fair and reasonable by the people of Rhodesia and the international community.

/ You may

You may like to keep in touch with Mr. Derek Day, at Mirimba House in Salisbury, about further developments; I know he will be glad to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Tholester

---

The Right Reverend the Bishop of Mashonaland