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GRS 750

Subject on Rhodesia:  
SOUKUM: PT 8.

**PRIME MINISTER'S**

**PERSONAL MESSAGE**

**SERIAL No. T130A/79T**

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FM F.C.O. 301105Z OCT 79

TO IMMEDIATE GABORONE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 204 OF 30 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

MY TEL NO 351 TO DAR ES SALAAM: RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA:-

1. RICHARD LUCE EXPLAINED TO MR MOGWE ON 21 OCTOBER THE PROPOSALS WE ARE PUTTING FORWARD TO ENABLE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY TO BRING THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION FOR RHODESIA INTO EFFECT. I WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY MR TURNER'S ACCOUNT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU ON 3 OCTOBER. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE APPRECIATION YOU EXPRESSED OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO LACK OF DETERMINATION ON OUR PART IN SEEKING TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN THE NEXT STAGE OF THE CONFERENCE.
2. WE NOW HAVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS. THEY QUESTION THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE PLAN WE HAVE PUT FORWARD, NAMELY THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT AT LUSAKA, ELECTIONS SHOULD BE SUPERVISED UNDER BRITISH AUTHORITY, WITH COMMONWEALTH OBSERVERS PRESENT.
3. 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. WE ARE TAKING ACTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT. AS I ASSURED YOU BEFORE THE CONFERENCE BEGAN, WE ARE READY TO CARRY OUT TO THE FULL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE DE-COLONISING POWER. BUT WE SHALL NOT BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GO WELL BEYOND THAT 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 THIS 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 BREAK-DOWN OF THE CEASE-FIRE. IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE'S INTERESTS AND IN THOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES 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 ELECTIONS.

4. WHAT WE MUST SEEK IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES OF THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM PERIOD - NAMELY THE RE-ASSERTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY, A GOVERNOR WITH FULL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXERTING DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS. THE PROPOSALS WE HAVE PUT FORWARD INVOLVE BISHOP MUJOREWA AND HIS MINISTERS RELINQUISHING POWER TO ENABLE NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. BISHOP MUJOREWA HAS SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS, WHICH INVOLVE VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR HIM, IN THE INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT UNLIKE SOME PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT, 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. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE VERY MUCH EASIER TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH 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.

5. I HOPE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL ACCEPT THE SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THE IMPARTIALITY OF THE ELECTIONS PROCESS. IN THAT EVENT A SOLUTION WILL BE WITHIN OUR GRASP. IT WILL BE A TRAGEDY FOR RHODESIA AND FOR HER NEIGHBOURS IF, NOW THAT GENUINE MAJORITY RULE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION, ANY OF THE PARTIES WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO PUT THEIR POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE TEST IN ELECTIONS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY.

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6. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT. THIS COULD BE DECISIVE TO THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WILL BRING PEACE TO RHODESIA AND TO BOTSWANA AND ENABLE THE REFUGEES TO RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR HOMES AND WE SHALL OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ASSIST WITH THIS.

CARRINGTON

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