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FM FCO 131629Z OCT 79

TO FLASH MAPUTO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 120 OF 13 OCTOBER

RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MACHEL FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS

I HAVE HAD AN ACCOUNT FROM MR PAPADOPOULOS OF HIS MEETING WITH YOU ON 12 OCTOBER. I FOUND THIS VERY ENCOURAGING. WE HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON. I SHOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU MY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE POSITION WE HAVE NOW REACHED.

THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION WHICH WE HAVE PUT FORWARD HAS IN OUR VIEW GONE A VERY LONG WAY TO MEET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S REQUIREMENTS. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NO EASY TASK TO SECURE THE SALISBURY DELEGATION'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT. THAT CONSTITUTION PROVIDES, INDISPUTABLY, FOR GENUINE MAJORITY RULE.

IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH SIDES HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE, AND WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THAT. BUT WE HAVE NOW BEEN ENGAGED IN FIVE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION ON THE CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL THE ISSUES AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE CONSTITUTION WE HAVE PUT FORWARD IS THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. WE CANNOT MAKE FURTHER CHANGES AT THIS STAGE.

WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OVER THE QUESTION OF LAND. WE RECOGNISE THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROBLEM TO BOTH SIDES. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION DOES MAKE FULLY ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR SETTLEMENT, BUT THERE MUST ALSO BE PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION. LORD CARRINGTON MADE A STATEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE ON 11 OCTOBER PROMISING THAT WE WOULD HELP, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPITAL AID FOR LAND SETTLEMENT PROJECTS AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE SHALL ALSO BE READY TO HELP THE NEW GOVERNMENT OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THESE AND OTHER PURPOSES.

IF THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH DELEGATIONS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING ELECTIONS

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/ SUPERVISED

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T117E/797

Subject copy
Rhodesia SA P+8

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SUPERVISED UNDER OUR AUTHORITY, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. THIS WILL OFFER FURTHER HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE MAKING PROGRESS, THAT RHODESIA WILL COME TO INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND THAT THE PARTIES WILL BE PREPARED TO COMPETE FOR POWER BY POLITICAL MEANS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT I AGREE VERY STRONGLY WITH YOUR VIEW THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE ELECTIONS ARE HELD AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE. THE SALISBURY DELEGATION HAVE AS YOU KNOW ACCEPTED THE CONSTITUTION. THEY HAVE ALSO STATED THEIR READINESS TO ACCEPT ELECTIONS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S ACCEPTANCE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE IN BRINGING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

ENDS.

2. YOU SHOULD INFORM YOUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUE OF THE ACTION WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN. SIMILAR, THOUGH NOT IDENTICAL, MESSAGES ARE BEING SENT TO NYERERE, SERETSE KHAMA, TOLBERT AND SHAGARI. LUANDA IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO SPEAK ON THESE LINES.

CARRINGTON

FILES

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ES & SD
CCD
FRD
UND
LEGAL ADVISERS
(MR FREELAND)
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