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Rhodesia, Sit
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Text of a Letter from the Prime Minister of Australia, The Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser, to the Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister

~~PRIME MINISTER'S~~
PERSONAL MESSAGE
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SERIAL No.

Text begins:

In recent days, I have been in touch with Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda at the request of your High Commissioner to Australia, Sir Donald Tebbit, and have reported the results of these discussions to Sir Donald.

Now, in the light of further assessments we have made here, I am asking Andrew Peacock to rearrange his plans to enable him to visit London briefly on his way to Washington for next week's ANZUS meeting.

My reason for doing so is primarily to enable Andrew to register with Peter Carrington (and I hope it may be possible for you to see him also) the seriousness with which we view the developing situation in Rhodesia.

I believe that a point has now been reached when all the efforts of the last few months stand in the greatest jeopardy. On our assessment, avoidable risks are being taken which could seriously affect the acceptance of the results of the elections, such that all that has been achieved so far would have been to no avail.

I know there is a belief in some quarters that Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda have reached a position of irretrievable partisanship. I can only say that I am far from convinced that that is the case, and having in mind the influence which they could bring to bear in those critical early days after the election, I urge you to take the initiative in seeking to re-establish the warm personal relationship between the three of you which so evidently developed at Lusaka.

I do not wish to go into more detail by letter. Andrew Peacock can put very well to Peter Carrington the particular concerns that we have in our minds here. But I thought I should write to you to make it clear that it is only because of the extreme gravity with which we view the present situation that I am asking Andrew to undertake this special mission.

Text ends.

20 February 1980