

PRIME MINISTER

PA
MJS

RHODESIA ELECTIONS: PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVERS

Before the Recess David Winnick tabled a Question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he would "arrange for a number of honourable Members to observe the pending elections in Rhodesia and to report back to the House."

After consultation with Lord Soames, the FCO recommend the following reply:

"The Government do not propose to recommend the formation of an all-party group to report on the elections on Rhodesia. But they are prepared to discuss through ^{the usual} ~~normal~~ channels arrangements for a certain number of Members of Parliament to observe the elections. The Governor has agreed to provide the appropriate assistance."

The Chancellor of the Duchy thought that he should clear this with you before giving the reply next week. I can see no great objection to it. The proposal is set out in more detail in the attached note from the Foreign Office.

Are you content?

Yes out

MJS

10 January 1980