

IMMEDIATE

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[RHODESIA: POLICY: ADVANCE COPIES]

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*MR. BYATT*  
MR ASPIN

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
MR R L WADE GERY )  
MR P M MAXEY ) CABINET  
MR GOULTY ) OFFICE  
MR W N WENBAN SMITH )  
DIO )

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HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D  
HD/S AF D  
*HD/UND*  
HD/PUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT  
*HE/WAD*  
PS/SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR FREELAND LEGAL ADVISER RMK200A

RESIDENT CLERK

*mb.*

CONFIDENTIAL

FM LUSAKA 191420Z FEB 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 196 OF 19 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY, UKMIS NEW YORK ; PRIORITY GABORONE,  
MAPUTO, DAR ES SALAAM, LAGOS , ADDIS ABABA ; ROUTINE BRUSSELS.

ZAMBIA / RHODESIA

1. LOCAL PRESS CORRESPONDENTS WERE SUMMONED AT SHORT NOTICE THIS MORNING TO STATE HOUSE, WHERE PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS ADDRESSING BELGIAN SENATOR MONCEAU, WHO IS SHORTLY VISITING SALISBURY AS BELGIAN ELECTION OBSERVER. ACCORDING TO LOCAL REUTERS CORRESPONDENT, FROM WHOM WE HAVE HAD AN ACCOUNT, KAUNDA WAS IN A RELATIVELY CALM MOOD, YET WHAT HE HAD TO SAY WAS UNHELPFUL.

2. KAUNDA SAID THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT BRITAIN HAD INVITED SEVERAL BATTALIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS INTO THE COUNTRY AND SAID THAT THE ZAMBIANS KNEW EXACTLY WHERE THEY

WERE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ELECTIONS COULD NOT/NOT BE FREE AND FAIR. HE PREDICTED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (HE APPEARED TO USE THIS TERM IN ITS OLD SENSE TO MEAN THE ALLIANCE OF ZAPU AND ZANU) WOULD STILL WIN. BUT WHEN THIS WAS PERCEIVED, THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WOULD STAGE A COUP.

3. OTHER POINTS MADE BY KAUNDA INCLUDED:

- (A) SUSPICION ABOUT THE TRUE REASON FOR THE REQUEST TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR "ARMoured CARS". HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL BUT APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT AS A RESULT SOUTH AFRICAN PERSONNEL WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF BALLOT BOXES. (I HAVE WRITTEN TO KASANDA TO CLARIFY POSITION) SEMI-COLON
- (B) THERE WERE NOW TWO GOVERNMENTS IN RHODESIA (THAT OF LORD SOAMES AND THAT OF GENERAL WALLS, THE LATTER BEING IN MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL) SEMI-COLON
- (C) THE USUAL POINTS ABOUT DEPLOYMENT OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND AUXILIARIES. THE FORMER WERE "ON THE RAMPAGE" IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENT. THE LATTER WERE "RUTHLESS THUGS", LOYAL TO MUZOREWA AND WERE KILLING AND MAIMING INNOCENT PEOPLE SEMI-COLON
- (D) HE CRITICISED THE ARREST OF GARFIELD TODD AND CONDEMNED THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST MUGABE SEMI-COLON
- (E) THE TWO SELOUS SCOUTS KILLED LAST WEEK HAD BEEN PLACING BOMBS IN CHURCHES IN THE HOPE THAT MUGABE WOULD BE BLAMED. (I HAD EARLIER BROUGHT MEA UP TO DATE ON FACTS OF INVESTIGATION).

4. AT THE RISK OF STATING THE OBVIOUS, THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW PRONOUNCED ON THESE ISSUES WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, AT LEAST PUBLICLY. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHY KAUNDA CHOSE THIS MOMENT. HE MAY FEEL A NEED, FOLLOWING THE OAU MEETING, AND REPORTS (BY TELNO 190) THAT MUGABE IS DOING BETTER THAN THE ZAMBIANS EXPECTED, TO REAFFIRM HIS CREDENTIALS WITH THE RADICALS. SINCE THE END OF LAST WEEK ZAMBIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF RHODESIA HAS BEEN FAIRLY MILD. BUT TOMORROW'S PAPERS WILL PROBABLY LET RIP.

NEILSON