



Rhodesia file
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10 DOWNING STREET

Phms

Prime Minister.

I know the possibility is already causing you & the Foreign Secretary concern but these reports give added weight to the view that at some stage you will be faced with a choice between

(a) an agreement with Bishop Mugwena & some or all of his supporters ^(inc. A Smith) that is broadly in line with Lusaka but does not enjoy substantial international support; &

(b) an agreement with the Patriotic Front (perhaps some of Bishop Mugwena's supporters) that goes beyond Lusaka ^{, but not widely so,} and is not acceptable

to the Bishop (because he would lose power) but which ^{would} enjoy the support of the Black African states and, probably, of the United States. (I would guess that the Patriotic Front have studied the Anglo-American plan very carefully.)

Unless the Patriotic Front & the Bishop move so far that a genuine agreement between all the participants is possible (which, given the calibre of the various players, would probably mean the early political demise of the Bishop) it is not at present easy to see how H.P.B. can avoid the dilemma. We have to negotiate seriously: the longer the Patriotic Front seizes, the more difficult it will be to evade the choice.

Paul 18/9