



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 May 1979

Agreed no.

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Dear Bryan,

- 1. *Agree that Sir A. Duff should go to Salisbury as proposed?*
- 2. *I am not sure that it would be helpful for the Lord Privy Seal to volunteer information about the visit in his speech. Only if asked or if it has leaked?*

It would be helpful in the House if it could be volunteered. No

BM 10/5

Our representative in Salisbury has spoken to Bishop Muzorewa on the lines agreed by the Prime Minister (your letter of 7 May). Bishop Muzorewa was pleased to have such a prompt reply. He expressed the hope that any negotiations in the near future would be carried out discreetly. He had no wish for either side to be rushed into taking up a position from which it would be difficult to retreat. For this reason he was sending Mr Flower, Head of the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation, to London to open up the way for future meetings. He felt that behind the scenes diplomacy was more likely to succeed.

This is a helpful response from Bishop Muzorewa. Sir Antony Duff will be seeing Mr Flower and he will also be invited to call on Mr Richard Luce. But the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary considers that contact through Mr Flower is not altogether satisfactory. He thinks it important that we should have direct contact with the Bishop personally. He therefore proposes to send Sir Antony Duff to Salisbury next week to see Bishop Muzorewa and to report on the situation there before Lord Carrington holds his talks with Mr Vance on 21-22 May. An approach would need to be made to the Rhodesian authorities on the lines of the enclosed draft telegram. We would not propose to publicise this visit in advance since Bishop Muzorewa asked for private contact for the time being. However we should confirm that the visit was taking place if we were asked about it and it might be useful for the Lord Privy Seal to be able to refer to it in his speech in the debate on the Address.

Lord Carrington will be circulating a paper on future policy for Rhodesia for discussion by his colleagues in OD on 14 May. Meanwhile I should be grateful to know if the Prime Minister is content for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to go ahead as proposed.

I am copying this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Jas ever
Stephen
 (J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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 LONDON