



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

T141/79T

OTTAWA, K1A 0A2  
November 14, 1979

Dear Prime Minister Thatcher,

Thank you very much for your message of October 31.

The progress which has been achieved at the Conference is most encouraging. Thanks to your own personal contribution, and the positive and constructive approach of others involved, Rhodesia has come closer to a solution than ever before. I have been particularly struck by the generally helpful role of the Front Line States and would hope that all the parties will continue to display patience and a spirit of accommodation.

I agree fully that the Lusaka Agreement must remain the guiding formula for a settlement. Attempts to reinterpret the Agreement will not be helpful. At the same time, I have been made aware of the concerns of some of our commonwealth colleagues about certain aspects of the proposed transitional arrangements. I know these have been conveyed to


.../2

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of Great Britain,  
London, England.

you directly. Some of the difficulties seem susceptible to solution, including the issue of the length of the transition period. As you point out, the longer this period the greater the risk of a breakdown of ceasefire. Nevertheless, it might be worthwhile to consider providing for a transition of somewhat more than two months so that it is clear to all that the Front, as well as the Salisbury parties, will have adequate time to conduct a political campaign. Although the underlying situations are far different, I am mindful of the much more extensive transitional and election campaign periods envisaged in our joint western proposal for Namibia.

I remain hopeful that, under your leadership, we shall soon see a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia. Canada remains prepared to do what it can to assist in the achievement of such a settlement and I am sure that I can count on you to let us know if there is some particular way in which we can be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. M. ...', is written below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.