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# UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY

*Office of the Secretary-General of the Party*

*In reply please quote:*

SGP/P/1

No. ....

**FREEDOM HOUSE  
P.O. BOX 302, LUSAKA  
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

10th March, 1980

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,  
Prime Minister of Britain,  
10, Downing Street,  
LONDON. S.W.1.

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

You met so many people when you came to Zambia last August and I don't therefore, expect you to remember me.

All the same may I first of all congratulate you for the happy end of the Rhodesian problem. It fell on you to make hard decisions and to discuss and exchange views with other world leaders in order to convince them of your bona fides. This was not easy.

As an African I should not hide that our general but dying feelings are still that all was done to prevent the Patriotic Front Alliance from winning; while all was secretly and openly done to give UANC of Bishop Muzorewa all advantage. We feel South Africa was giving orders to Britain designed to have a sort of Bantustan in Zimbabwe.

However, what is significant is that the Patriotic Front Alliance won masively in spite of all the odds against them. True they were popular but credit is also due not so much to the interim "Administration" (Africans argue that it was ineffective), but it is due to Electoral Team from Britain which countenanced no kind of corrupt practices of any kind whatsoever. They never attempted (and we who are familiar with British standards in these matters knew that they would not attempt) to tamper with the ballot.

These officials share the credit with you and the other Commonwealth leaders like our President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda who knocked out the Lusaka Accord.

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Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP., - 2 - 10th March, 1980


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My second point for writing to you is to remind you of what you kept on emphasizing in Lusaka. You said you were for the ballot and not for the bullet in Rhodesia. In the Intercontinental Hotel, during the Kenyan reception, my colleagues and I had opportunity to inform you that, in fact, it was Ian Smith who was against the ballot and who had been ruling through the bullet. We added that, the Patriotic Front were really for the ballot and not the bullet.

I am against the "I told you" people. However, I am ashamed that, on this occasion, I can not resist joining the people I despise by claiming that the victory of the Patriotic Front has proved our point that these dedicated and devoted patriots, these lovers of peace, these humanists have always been for nothing but the ballot. They are leaders of Africans who are peace-loving and most of whom are still as innocent as a child - though I found this to be true of English people in the country as well.

I hope all will continue to be well in Zimbabwe. Things are very promising and Britain is out. You have done something to be proud of and which seemed virtually impossible six months ago. You will be remembered by the people of Zimbabwe, those of neighbouring countries and of the entire African continent. And by history.

Yours sincerely,

  
M. Mainza Chona

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Yours sincerely,

  
M. Maitso Chona