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copy: AJ Smalls
DOT.

GR 430

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FM NAIROBI 190600Z APR 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 264 OF 18 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE LAGOS

ROUTINE SALISBURY, LUSAKA, CAPE TOWN, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

JUN 020/2

RECEIVED IN SECRETARY'S OFFICE
23 APR 1980

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	ADMINISTRATIVE

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FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SHAGARI

1. LORD CARRINGTON MET PRESIDENT SHAGARI AND PROFESSOR AUDU FOR HALF AN HOUR ON THE MORNING OF 18 APRIL.
2. LORD CARRINGTON CONGRATULATED THE PRESIDENT ON NIGERIA'S SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE. SHAGARI RESPONDED WITH A CAREFULLY PREPARED APPRECIATION OF BRITAIN'S ACHIEVEMENT IN BRINGING ZIMBABWE TO INDEPENDENCE. HE OFFERED HIS WARM CONGRATULATIONS PERSONALLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS A .

AND TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE. SINCE COMING INTO OFFICE, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF ZIMBABWE. THIS EFFORT WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED IN NIGERIA AND IN AFRICA. IT HAD GIVEN THE NIGERIANS RENEWED CONFIDENCE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, AFTER MANY YEARS IN WHICH DISAGREEMENTS OVER RHODESIA HAD SOWN DOUBTS ABOUT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AS THE "LEADER OF THE COMMONWEALTH, HAD ALSO STRENGTHENED THE COMMONWEALTH AND NIGERIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH IT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MATTER OF REGRET TO HIM IF RHODESIA HAD INTERFERED WITH NIGERIA'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH. THE NIGERIANS WERE THEREFORE PARTICULARLY DELIGHTED WITH THE OUTCOME AND WISHED TO CONGRATULATE LORD CARRINGTON AND THROUGH HIM MRS THATCHER.

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4. AS IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS IN SALISBURY LORD CARRINGTON WARNEFXTHAT THEOCGUTH AFRICANS SHOULD BE GIVEN TIME TO DIGEST THE RHODESIAN ELECTION AND THAT IMMEDIATE PRESSURE FOR A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM THEM ON NAMIBIA WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. HE ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO URGE PATIENCE ON THE AFRICANS WHEN THE UN PLAN HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SO LONG. PRESIDENT SHAGARI THOUGHT THAT MUCH DEPENDED ON HOW THINGS TURNED OUT IN ZIMBABWE. LORD CARRINGTON AGREED: THE FIRST SIGNE WERE ENCOURAGING AND MUGABE HAD GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO REASSURE THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

VISITS:

4. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, LORD CARRINGTON SADI THAT HE HOPED TO SEE PROFESSOR AUDU IN LONDON, AND OF COURSE PRESIDENT SHAGARI HIMSELF IN DUE TIME.

5. SEE MY TWO IFTS (NOT TO ALL.)

WILLIAMS

COPIES SENT TO
No 11 DOWNING STREET

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