



Prime Minister

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

3 June 1980

The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs

Dr Peter

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MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZIMBABWE

I agree about the importance of stabilising the military situation in Zimbabwe, and that it is right for us to provide assistance on the scale recommended by General Fursdon. Your undertaking to provide £1 million from the existing military assistance programme is welcome.

The question of further offsetting savings elsewhere within your programmes we can regard as covered by the review of options for further reductions in programmes which we shall be making in the course of the 1980 public expenditure survey. In the meantime, I am willing to provide up to £2 million from the contingency reserve for the present purpose, subject to Francis Pym's confirmation that he is able to provide the personnel, and on the understanding that all the options for offsetting savings remain open for consideration later this year.

Bearing in mind that we have already committed £75 million (including £15 million from the contingency reserve) for development assistance to Zimbabwe, and are prepared to be helpful over rescheduling pre-UDI debts, I hope you will agree that it would be very difficult to do any more. In particular, I think we should discourage any Zimbabwean expectations that we might help with schemes such as the Africanisation of the civil service.

/I am sending

CONFIDENTIAL



I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister
the Defence Secretary, other members of OD and to
Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. H.", with a horizontal line underneath.

GEOFFREY HOWE