



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

2 October 1979

*Dear Michael,*

Rhodesia: Messages to the Front Line  
Presidents

As you know Lord Carrington hopes to table a full description of the Independence Constitution for Rhodesia at a plenary session in Lancaster House tomorrow afternoon. He considers it important to give the Presidents of Zambia, Tanzania and Botswana (and also the Governments of Mozambique, Nigeria and Angola) advance warning of this move. Observers from the Front Line States have received regular briefing from the FCO during the Constitutional Conference, and have so far played a generally helpful role. However, at a briefing given by Derek Day on 2 October, there were signs of suspicion on the part of the observers that the British Government were not negotiating seriously with the Patriotic Front (doubtless based on prior briefing from Patriotic Front representatives). The observers were inclined to question the Government's firm adherence to their original proposals and commented on apparent British inflexibility on certain issues. Fears were also expressed that Bishop Muzorewa would pocket an agreed constitution, return to Salisbury to enact it and then call for immediate recognition, which the British Government might grant. Derek Day told the observers that the Government were not weakening in their resolve to obtain a settlement on the basis of the Lusaka Communiqué.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General has told Derek Day and Sir Antony Duff that he has had indications from Lusaka and Dar-es-Salaam that Presidents Kaunda and Nyerere are becoming restive. Whether or not this is in fact the case, Lord Carrington considers that it would help to reinforce our position with the Front Line States if the Prime Minister sent a message today to the Presidents, as a curtain raiser to the tabling of our further constitutional proposals. I enclose a draft telegram to this effect. If the proposed message has the Prime Minister's approval, we shall arrange for its immediate despatch.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

R M J Lyne

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