

PRIME MINISTER

HARARE

7th January, 1983.



OPS
Subject on
Zimbabwe Relations,
Pt 3

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. TZA/83

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

I write to thank you for your letter of 31st December, 1982, which Mr. Cranley Onslow was kind enough to deliver to me. I am glad that General Shortis transmitted to you my Government's position regarding the case of the Air Force Officers awaiting trial.

I have now, once again, expressed to Mr. Onslow the attitude of my Government to that case and to a number of others of the same category. At the same time, I have also expressed to him my dismay at the accusation of the violation of human rights levelled at my Government by you and your Government at a time we are doing our best to make the situation here more peaceful and, therefore, more protective of the Constitution and the democratic order it creates for the sustenance of those human rights. Indeed, in a situation in which some misguided and lawless elements are taking to terrorism and acts of sabotage, while South Africa is daily planning and executing its own programme of direct and indirect attacks on us, we have refused to be stampeded into hasty actions whose possible effect might be to curtail civil liberties. And this is precisely how we propose to continue governing. What we need, therefore, is a

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little word of encouragement and acknowledgement of what we have managed to achieve so far even against the tremendous odds that faced us at Independence, arising from the hostilities that prevailed during UDI.

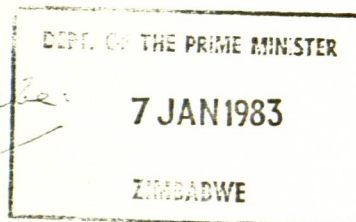
My Government is very happy indeed that the BMATT team has recently been increased. As I have stated on several occasions, this team has contributed in no small way towards the peace and stability we generally have in the country.

I am glad that your Government is now ready to proceed with arrangements for the sale of Hunter aircraft and ground equipment. Mr. Onslow has discussed the matter briefly with me, but I hope conclusive arrangements can be gone into before he leaves.

Once again, Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Robert G. Mugabe



The Honourable Mrs. Thatcher
10 Downing Street,
London.