

20 February 1980

BY PRIVATE NOTICE

*La Mr Peter Shore (Tower Hamlets, Stepney & Poplar): To ask the Lord Privy Seal, if he will make a statement on recent developments in the Rhodesian elections.

SIR IAN GILMOUR

The situation has not changed substantially since my statement of the 13th of February. Elections on the 'White Votes' roll took place on the 14th of February.

The Governor is continuing his consultations with party leaders with the aim of stemming political intimidation, which is making it extremely difficult for the majority of parties to campaign in certain areas.

Although there has been a disturbing number of violent incidents, the total number of casualties since ceasefire day is less than frequently occurred in a single week previously. Investigations are being pursued into a number of incidents including the bombings in Salisbury on the night of the 14th of February.

/540 volunteers

540 volunteers from the police will travel to Salisbury this weekend to reinforce supervision of polling stations. We are grateful for the splendid response from the volunteers and are sure that their presence will make a material contribution to the prevention of intimidation at the polls.