



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 January 1980

(2)

for
Pmt

Prime Minister

Reply is in preparation

Pmt

Dear Michael,

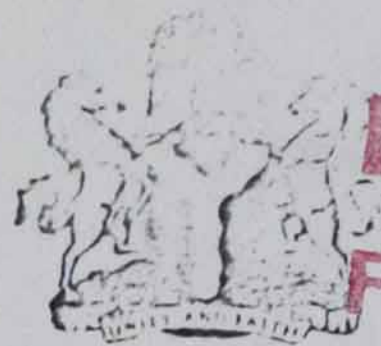
The Lord Privy Seal received the Nigerian High Commissioner this afternoon to take delivery of a message, of which you are aware, from his President to the Prime Minister. I attach a copy of the message, and a draft reply will be forwarded to you by 18 January.

Gomersall
Signature

S J Gomersall

Handwritten mark

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T10B180
15TH JANUARY, 1980.....

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

Z I M B A B W E

I AM CONSTRAINED TO WRITE AGAIN ON THE QUESTION OF ZIMBABWE.

BECAUSE I CONTINUE TO SHARE YOUR HOPE THAT A JUST, PEACEFUL AND AMICABLE SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE ACCORD ON ZIMBABWE, I MUST LET YOU KNOW THAT WE HERE IN NIGERIA ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ALLOWED LORD SOAMES TO DEPLOY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FOR DUTY ON BEIT BRIDGE. WE THINK THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THAT VITAL BRIDGE AND REPLACED BY BRITISH TROOPS.

WE ARE ALSO UNHAPPY THAT LORD SOAMES HAS HAD TO DEPLOY THE FORMER RHODESIAN FORCES ON SECURITY DUTIES ALL OVER ZIMBABWE, PARTICULARLY AS HE HAS NOT SIMILARLY DEPLOYED SUCH PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES AS HAVE ACCEPTED HIS AUTHORITY. IN OUR VIEW THIS IS AN AREA WHERE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE. THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THIRTEEN PATRIOTIC FRONT TROOPS WHICH CAME OUT OF THE BUSH CLEARLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSEMBLE AS AGREED WERE KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES RECENTLY HAVE DONE NOTHING TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF THOSE WHO FEEL THAT LORD SOAMES SHOULD BE MORE DISPASSIONATE IN CONDUCTING THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL FEEL ABLE EVEN AT THIS STAGE TO AGREE THAT BRITISH TROOPS SHOULD NOW BE DEPLOYED ON BEIT BRIDGE REPLACING THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AND THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF FORMER RHODESIAN FORCES ON SECURITY DUTIES ALL OVER ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE REVIEWED.