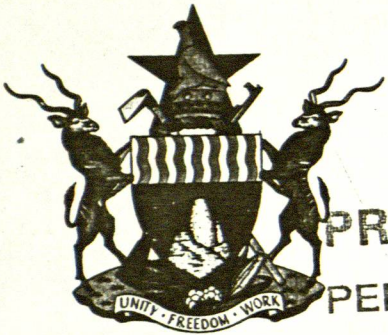


T.176 A/81

OPS

Original filed on:-
Zimbabwe: Part 2;
UK/Zimbabwe relations



PRIME MINISTER
SALISBURY

15 December, 1981.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No: T.176 A/81

Dear Prime Minister,

(T.153/81) - P41

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd November, 1981.

I too recall the very important and useful discussion we had in Melbourne during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, the main part of which was focused on our requirements for further external assistance in relation to our immediate post-war reconstruction and development programmes. As I indicated to you on that occasion, it is my Government's very strong belief that the United Kingdom can, and should, do more to render the necessary assistance to us particularly in regard to our land purchase and resettlement programme and financial support to Zimbabwean students studying in the United Kingdom.

Whilst we naturally are very appreciative of the aid we have to date received from Her Majesty's Government, I must, however, emphasise again that our requirements are most urgent indeed and that the assistance so far received from the United Kingdom and other friendly countries regrettably falls short of these requirements. The land purchase and resettlement programme in particular is one concerning which we feel Britain should be more understanding and helpful. Needless to

say that our own people, the bulk of whom are peasants whose "traditionally" meagre resources were wiped out during the war, do not have the means to acquire the land they need for settlement and agricultural purposes. It is in light of this stark fact that I was impelled to speak to you in the manner I did in Melbourne. If the situation has changed at all in the last two months it is in respect of its having become more critical and urgent.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. Mugabe.

R.G. Mugabe.

PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE

18 DEC 1981

ZIMBABWE

Prime Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The Rt. Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London.

RGM/gm.