

**SUBJECT**

cc FCO  
CO

js



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T20/79T**

5 June 1979

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 19 May and for letting me know how you see the Rhodesia issue. I agree that this is going to be one of the most difficult issues facing us and the Commonwealth. I welcome your wish to keep in close touch about it.

As you will know, Lord Boyd and his team of observers have reported that the elections in Rhodesia were conducted fairly, were as free as possible in the circumstances and that in their view the result represented the wishes of the majority of the electorate. Our objective now is to work with the new administration in Salisbury to bring Rhodesia back to legality with the widest possible international recognition.

Peter Carrington welcomed the chance to discuss our approach with Sir Gordon Freeth, and with Mr. Campbell and Mr. Griffiths during their recent visit to London. During the next few weeks we shall be carrying out further consultations to help us decide on the best way forward. David Harlech will be visiting Africa to sound out the Commonwealth and other African Governments most directly concerned and we will be considering the best way to proceed in the light of his report. As you will know, we are also arranging for a senior official to go to Salisbury so that we can keep in the closest touch with Bishop Muzorewa and seek to influence the policies of his Government in directions which may help him to win international acceptance.

/ Peter Carrington

278

Peter Carrington hopes to have a chance to discuss the whole problem with Andrew Peacock in London later this month and we shall want to keep in the closest possible touch with you about this problem and how we should handle it in relation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka. I am delighted that we shall now be able to meet before then in Canberra.

Yours sincerely

M.T.

The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, CH, MP.