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TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM

OF 6 AUGUST

CHGM: RHODESIA: PRESS

1. THE AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED. THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE RADIO INTERVIEWS THIS EVENING, 5 AUGUST, TO BBC RADIO AND COI. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF COI INTERVIEW WITH JUSTIN PHILLIPS:

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: PRIME MINISTER, WHAT EXACTLY HAS BEEN AGREED TODAY?

PRIME MINISTER: A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT IN THE COMMUNIQUE. FIRST, A RECOGNITION THAT ONLY BRITAIN CAN GIVE RHODESIA BACK LEGALITY. SECOND, TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN BRITAIN TO DO THAT. THIRD, REALISATION THAT WE HAVE NOT ONLY GOT TO FIND THE RIGHT CONSTITUTION WHICH CURES DEFECTS IN THE EXISTING ONE, BUT ALSO WE HAVE GOT TO FIND A WAY BY DOING THAT OF ENDING THE HOSTILITIES. YOU KNOW WHAT MEANS MORE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA, BLACK OR WHITE, THAN ANYTHING ELSE IS THAT THE WAR SHOULD CEASE, THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT, AND TO LOOK FORWARD TO AN ERA OF PEACE OF STABILITY. WE HAVE GOT THE WHOLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH WITH US ON RECOGNISING THAT AND BACKING BRITAIN TO GO AHEAD AND DO OUR LEVEL BEST TO ACHIEVE IT.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: HOW WAS THIS AGREEMENT REACHED IN FACT? BECAUSE AT THE START OF THE CONFERENCE OPINION SEEMED TO BE SOME WAY APART BETWEEN BRITAIN AND SOME OF OUR PARTNERS.

/PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER: WELL, YOU KNOW WE GOT OFF TO A GOOD START. THEY KINDLY ASKED ME TO DO A SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE AND THAT WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED. AND IF A THING STARTS WELL ITS A VERY GOOD OMEN FOR IT TO GO ON. WE WERE TWO DAYS TALKING BEFORE WE CAME ON TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, SO WE GOT TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER FAIRLY WELL. IF PEOPLE HAD ANYTHING TO SAY, THEY GOT IT OFF THEIR CHESTS AT THE BEGINNING AND THEN WE WENT INTO THE SMALLER SESSIONS AND WERE ABLE TO GET AN ENORMOUS MEASURE, NOT ONLY OF AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO GOODWILL AND SORT OF IMPETUS, A MOMENTUM. WE MUST GO AHEAD BECAUSE NOW WE HAVE GOT THE KIND OF CHANCE WE HAVENT HAD FOR YEARS. WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT OPPORTUNITY. AND THE INTERESTING THING WAS THE TRUST AND THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE THE WHOLE TIME.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: HOW MUCH OF A BREAK THROUGH DO YOU CONSIDER THIS TO BE?

PRIME MINISTER: I AM ALWAYS CAUTIOUS BECAUSE I DONT LIKE TO RAISE HOPES UNTIL WE HAVE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW. BUT I CAME HERE THINKING THAT WE WOULD HAVE QUITE A DIFFICULT CONFERENCE TO GET COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT. IT HASNT BEEN. THEY HAVE PUT THEIR TRUST IN US. THEY HAVE GIVEN US THEIR SUPPORT. THEY HAVE GIVEN US THEIR SUPPORT NOT ONLY FOR THE CONSTITUTION, BUT IN STRESSING THAT WE NEED TO GET RID OF HOSTILITIES AS WELL. BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT MEANS MOST TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND ALSO FOR THE COUNTRIES AROUND.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: WHO IS THIS GOOD NEWS FOR, IN FACT, THIS AGREEMENT?

PRIME MINISTER: WHO IS IT GOOD NEWS FOR. ITS GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE IN RHODESIA. BECAUSE YOU KNOW THEY HAVE HAD ONE PERSON ONE VOTE AND MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY BELIEVE IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS BY THE BALLOT BOX. ITS GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY, AND WANT TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES THAT WAY. ITS ALSO GOOD NEWS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, GOOD NEWS THAT THEY COULD BE SO UNITED IN THEIR SUPPORT. ITS GOOD NEWS I THINK FOR ALL DEMOCRATIC NATIONS THAT A GROUPING LIKE THE COMMONWEALTH COULD TAKE SUCH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, AND ITS GOOD NEWS FOR US AT HOME.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: NOW THAT YOU HAVE THIS AGREEMENT WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

PRIME MINISTER: WE GET BACK TO LONDON IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THURSDAY MORNING, BECAUSE WE HAVE STILL TO FINISH SOME OTHER THINGS AT THE CONFERENCE. I HAVE ALREADY CALLED A CABINET FOR FRIDAY. I DONT WANT TO LOSE ANY TIME. WE WILL SORT OUT PROPOSALS THERE AND I HOPE THAT VERY QUICKLY, WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS AFTER THAT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET ALL PARTIES TOGETHER, AND THEN WE SHALL START PRETTY INTENSIVE PERIOD OF PERSUASION AND NEGOTIATION. BUT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE COMMONWEALTH IS BEHIND US.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: WOULD YOU SAY THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS.

PRIME MINISTER: THE CONFERENCE HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A SUCCESS, HOW FAR WE CAN BUILD ON THAT SUCCESS IS YET TO BE DECIDED. BUT THEY HAVE GIVEN US A TREMENDOUS START. THE REST WILL DEPEND UPON THE WILL OF THE PARTIES WHO TAKE PART. AND THE WILL BEHIND THEM OF ALL THE AFRICAN STATES, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, WHOSE FUTURE IS SO INTIMATELY BOUND UP WITH THAT OF RHODESIA, WHOSE PROSPERITY IS BOUND UP WITH RHODESIA, AND THE PEACE OF WHOSE PEOPLES DEPENDS ON THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA.

JUSTIN PHILLIPS: PRIME MINISTER, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.