

OPS

Subject copy

Rhodesia Sit P+8

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 1178/797

ZZ CAEPHONE

PP LUSAKA

PP LAGOS

GRS 510

CONFIDENTIAL

FM F C C 131630Z OCT

TO FLASH CAEPHONE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 195 OF 13 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, LUSAKA, MAPUTO,
LUANDA, LAGOS.

RHODESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGIN.

I WAS VERY GLAD TO SEE MR TURNER'S ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH
YOU ON 3 OCTOBER ABOUT RHODESIA. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE POSITION WE HAVE NOW REACHED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL
CONFERENCE.

THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION WHICH WE HAVE PUT FORWARD HAS IN OUR
VIEW COME A VERY LONG WAY TO MEET THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S REQUIRE-
MENTS. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NO EASY TASK TO SECURE THE SALISBURY
DELEGATION'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT. THAT CONSTITUTION PROVIDES,
INDISPUTABLY, FOR GENUINE MAJORITY RULE.

IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH SIDES HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO
COMPROMISE, AND WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THAT. BUT WE HAVE NOW BEEN
ENGAGED IN FIVE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION ON THE CONSTITUTION.
WE HAVE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL THE ISSUES AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT
THE CONSTITUTION WE HAVE PUT FORWARD IS THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH
AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. WE CANNOT MAKE FURTHER CHANGES AT THIS STAGE.

WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OVER THE QUESTION OF
LAND. WE RECOGNISE THE VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROBLEM TO
BOTH SIDES. THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION MAKES FULLY ADEQUATE
PROVISION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR SETTLEMENT. BUT

THERE MUST ALSO BE PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION. PETER CARRINGTON MADE A STATEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE ON 11 OCTOBER PROMISING THAT WE WOULD HELP, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES AND CAPITAL AID FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE SHALL ALSO BE READY TO HELP THE NEW GOVERNMENT OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THESE AND OTHER PURPOSES.

IF THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MOVE ON TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH DELEGATIONS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING ELECTIONS SUPERVISED UNDER OUR AUTHORITY, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEASE-FIRE. THIS WILL OFFER FURTHER HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE MAKING PROGRESS THAT RHODESIA WILL COME TO INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND THAT THE PARTIES WILL BE PREPARED TO COMPETE FOR POWER BY POLITICAL MEANS. THE SALISBURY DELEGATION HAVE AS YOU KNOW ACCEPTED THE CONSTITUTION. THEY HAVE ALSO STATED THEIR READINESS TO ACCEPT ELECTIONS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S ACCEPTANCE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE IN BRINGING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

ENDS.

2. YOU SHOULD INFORM YOUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUE OF THE ACTION WHICH YOU HAVE TAKEN. SIMILAR, THOUGH NOT IDENTICAL, MESSAGES ARE BEING SENT TO NYERERE, MACFEL, TOLBERT AND SHAGARI. LUANDA IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO SPEAK ON THESE LINES.

CARRINGTON

FILES

RHOD D
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 (MR FREELAND)
 (MR FIFOOT)
 ECON D
 PCD

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 LORD N G LENNOX
 MISS BROWN
 MR DAY
 MR WILLSON
 MR ASPIN

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