



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister:

Agree telegram
at Kelag A?

29 August 1979

Dear Boyan,

Phm 23/8

fg. Phm 23/8

Rhodesia Conference: Message from Bishop Muzorewa

Mirimba Salisbury telno 577 (copy enclosed) conveyed a message from Bishop Muzorewa to the Prime Minister raising a number of points in connection with the Constitutional Conference.

The tone of the message is not very encouraging, but may be taken to reflect the wish of the white officials concerned to set out a hard negotiating position. It is not in fact the case that we agreed not to publish any constitutional proposals without prior consultation. During Bishop Muzorewa's visit to London, the Prime Minister undertook to let him know privately the changes in the 1979 Constitution which we regard as indispensable. This was the purpose of Mr Fifoot's visit to Salisbury, the usefulness of which the Bishop acknowledges. The outline of the main elements we would wish to see in a constitutional settlement, which was published simultaneously with the invitations to the Conference, was intended to establish the necessary framework for negotiation (and was in fact shown by Mr Day to Bishop Muzorewa before it was published).

On the question of a ceasefire, the Bishop's attitude is entirely reasonable. We have never expected the Salisbury Administration to agree to a ceasefire unless the Patriotic Front also do so.

The Bishop's assertion that no amendments to the existing constitution are necessary and the call for sanctions to be lifted immediately is a position he knows from his conversation with the Prime Minister that we cannot accept.

The message also raises administrative points which should be pursued by Mr Day. In response to requests from both sides we have already raised the number for whom we shall be prepared to pay from 12 to 20. This appears to us to be a very reasonable arrangement and there would seem to be no need to raise the number further. We could not in any case increase the numbers from Salisbury without making a similar offer to the Patriotic Front. On other points, we can increase the numbers to be admitted to the Conference room to sixteen, and we will provide two additional cars for the Bishop's delegation.

/Lord

CONFIDENTIAL



/ Lord Carrington agrees with Mr Day's recommendation
(Mirimba Salisbury telno 578) that, rather than sending a
formal reply to the Bishop's message, Mr Day should be
instructed to reply on the Prime Minister's behalf.

/ I enclose a draft telegram of instructions to Salisbury.

/ I shall be writing separately about the question of
Rhodesian representation in London, about which the
Bishop has sent a further message (Mirimba Salisbury telno
579).

*Yours ever,
Stephen*

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

B G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

H.S. Hunt 3/5

RHODESIA: MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY AT 5.00 P.M.

I attach some current papers which may be relevant to your discussion with Lord Carrington this afternoon. The top paper, relating to the message sent to you by Bishop Muzorewa last week, covers the text of a draft telegram instructing Mr. Day to give your reply orally to the Bishop. You may like to agree the text now.*

I have included a copy of the text of your message to President Nyerere. The top copy will be in your signature folder this evening.

* Since dictating this I have learnt that Mr Day is seeing the Bishop at 08.30 to-morrow. It would therefore be helpful to get the telegram 30 August 1979 on its way later to-day.

Hunt 30/8

*Could it
be do
more
over
20 for
=
Rhodesia?
25?
And 2nd was*