

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM SALISBURY 221825Z JAN 80
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 295 OF 22 JANUARY 1980

Prime Minister

[Signature]

INFO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA, DAR ES SALAAM, MAPUTO, GABORONE, LUANDA,
PRETORIA, CAPE TOWN, WASHINGTON, LAGOS, UKMIS NEW YORK, CANBERRA,
PRIORITY OTTAWA, WELLINGTON, NAIROBI AND SUVA.

MY TELNO 226/ RHODESIA: SITREP 22 JANUARY.

1. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONTACTS REPORTED BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND PF ELEMENTS OVER YESTERDAY. IN THE LAST 24 HOUR PERIOD COMINED OPERATIONS HAVE ALLEGED A TOTAL OF 17 POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS CONSISTING OF 10 CONTACTS, 4 SHOOTINGS, ONE LANDMINE EXPLOSION, ONE BORDER CROSSING AND ONE ASSAULT. 5 PF PERSONNEL AND TWO LOCALS WERE KILLED. THIS MORNING THERE WERE 21.607 IN THE ASSEMBLY PLACES.
2. THE CEASE FIRE COMMISSION MET AGAIN TODAY AND CONSIDERED 25 ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRE, MAINLY TABLED BY ZANLA. THE COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT ONLY 6 COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS BREACHES BECAUSE THE REST WERE TOO VAGUE. THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE BREACHES WAS: ONE BY THE AUXILIARIES, TWO BY ZANLA, ONE IN THE ZANLA AREA OF OPERATIONS, ONE UNATTRIBUTABLE AND ONE DEFERRED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THERE WERE TWO INSTANCES OF INCITEMENT TO A BREACH OF THE CEASEFIRE IN WHICH THE SECURITY FORCES WERE RESPONSIBLE. THERE WERE TWO CASES OF ARMED INTIMIDATION WHICH THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED WERE BREACHES OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENT AND A MATTER FOR THE POLICE. (ABOUT 50 ALLEGATIONS, MAINLY MADE BY THE SECURITY FORCES, ARE OUTSTANDING.)
3. THE DEPLOYMENT OF A SECURITY FORCE COMPANY TO LOOK FOR THE ALLEGED LARGE GROUP OF GUERILLAS NEAR NKA1 IS SUPPOSED TO END ON SUNDAY. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A PLAN FOR IT TO CARRY ON COVERTLY. WE ARE TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION. ALL OF THE ZIPRA PERSONNEL DETAINED AT KAROI HAVE BEEN RELEASED EXCEPT FOR 3.

CONFIDENTIAL

/ASSEMBLY AREAS.

ASSEMBLY AREAS.

4. THERE ARE PROBLEMS OVER THE BUFFER ZONES AROUND THE ASSEMBLY AREAS WHICH WE ARE URGENTLY WORKING TO RESOLVE. THE CONCEPT OF THE BUFFER ZONES WAS ORIGINALLY AN INFORMAL AND PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE SECURITY FORCES TO PROVIDE FOR AREAS IN WHICH THE LATTER WOULD NOT PATROL. IN TERMS OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT THE AREAS SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN FREE OF PF GUERILLAS. BUT THE ARRANGEMENT IS NO LONGER PRIVATE AND THERE HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS OVER PROPOSALS TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE ZONES TO A DISTANCE OF BETWEEN 500 AND 1500 METRES FROM THE ASSEMBLY AREA PERIMETER. RELATED ORDERS SENT OUT BY SECURITY FORCES HQS WHICH STATED THAT NO GUERILLAS SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN THE BUFFER ZONES HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE COMMANDER IN TANGENT WHO HAS INTERPRETED THEM AS ALLOWING HIS FORCES TO PATROL IN THE BUFFER ZONES THEMSELVES. THE PF ARE UNDERSTANDBABLY VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

5. THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE AUSTRALIANS IN ASSEMBLY AREA DELTA HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY THE MONITORING FORCE AND FOR THE MOST PART BEEN FOUND TO BE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. THE CONCLUSION REACHED IS THAT THE COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS ARE SINISTER AND CONSTITUTE AN ATTEMPTED PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATION AGAINST THE AUSTRALIANS. AT THE SAME CAMP THE PF ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD SEEN A GROUP OF SECURITY FORCES IN THE VINCITY, WHO ON INVESTIGATION TURNED OUT TO BE WATER ENGINEERS ECLAM. THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE POSITIONED 4 HAND HELD ROCKET LAUNCHERS ON A HILL OVERLOOKING FOXTROT BUT THEY REMOVE THEM AT NIGHT. WE ARE TAKING THIS UP. THERE ARE 50 SUSPECTED CASES OF RABIES IN JULIET. WE ARE CONSIDERING MOVING ALPHA BECAUSE ITS POSITION IS UNHEALTHY.

AUXILIARIES.

6. IN THE LAST 3 DAYS 10 AUXILIARY BASES HAVE BEEN CNSPECTED AND NOTHING ONTWARD HAS BEEN FOUND.

CONFIDENTIAL

ZANLA.

7. A MONITORING FORCE PAPER SUMMARISING ACTIVITY IN AREA THRASHER (WHICH IS THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY BORDERING MOZAMBIQUE) CONCLUDES THAT THERE ARE POSSIBLY 1000 ZANLA GUERILLAS STILL OPERATING IN THAT AREA, IN SMALL GROUPS WHEERE THERE ARE NO SECURITY FORCES AND IN LARGER RGOUPS WHERE SECURITY FORCES ARE PATROLLING. ALL THE RGOUPS ARE ELECTIONEERING. THE NUMBER OF FINDS OF HEAVY WEAPONS IS INCREASING: THEY CAN ONLY HAVE BEEN INTENDED BY ZANLA FOR FUTURE USE. IT IS APPARENT THAT UNLESS THE MANY INCIDENTS BY ZANLA STOP, THE SECURITY FORCES WILL INSIST ON MORE AGGRESSIVE PATROLLING, WHICH WILL RESULT IN MORE SHOOTING.

POLITICAL NEWS.

8. YESTERDAY SAW THE COMPLETION OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION PROCESS NINE PARTIES LODGED THEIR CANDIATES LISTS. THE PARTY WHICH HAS DROPPED OUT IS CHIEF CHIRAU'S ZUPOM THE RETURN OF REFUGEES FROM BOTSWANA BEGAN YESTERDAY.

FCO PSE PASS TO ALL

SOAMES

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

F I L E S

RHOD D

OADS

NAD

PUSD

PLANNING STAFF

ES & SD

CCD

FRD

EID (E)

UND

LEGAL ADVISERS

(MR FREELAND)

(MR FIFOOT)

ECON D

PCD

DEF D

IPD

OID

NEWS D

PS

PS/SIR I GILMOUR

PS/MR LUCE

PS/MR RIDLEY

PS/MR HURD

PS/MR MARTEN

PS/PUS

SIR D MAITLAND

MR HANNAY

LORD N G LENNOX

MISS BROWN

MR DAY

MR FERGUSSON

MR ASPIN

MR MILLS

CPO

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

RHODESIA POLICY