

Subject copy filed on Rhodesia situation Pt 15.

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ZZ LUSAKA
RR WELLINGTON
RR CANBERRA
RR ADDIS ABABA
RR LAGOS
RR DAR ES SALAAM
RR GABORONE
GRS 1230
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fn
And
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T36 AA/80

FM FCO 201320Z FEBRUARY 1980
TO FLASH LUSAKA
TELEGRAM NO 107 OF 22 FEBRUARY
AND TO IMMEDIATE SALISBURY
INFO ROUTINE MAPUTO, GABORONE, DAR ES SALAAM, LAGOS, ADDIS ABABA,
WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, CANBERRA, OTTAWA, WELLINGTON

RHODESIA: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA

1. YOU SHOULD CONVEY THE REPLY BELOW TO KAUNDA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT DELIBERATELY DOES NOT PICK UP ALL THE POINTS IN KAUNDA'S MESSAGE, PARTICULARLY THOSE MADE BY KAUNDA TO THE BELGIAN OBSERVER, WITH THE ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE. YOU WILL WISH TO GO OVER THE GROUND ON OTHERS WITH ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:
DEAR KENNETH

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I WAS VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF 15 FEBRUARY. I STRONGLY SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO RESTORE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS TO THEIR NATURAL WARMTH AND TO WORK TOGETHER. WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME AIM FOR RHODESIA: THAT THE ELECTION SHOULD BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ELECTED SHOULD BE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA. IT IS NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT IN ITSELF TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL THE PARTIES CAN TAKE PART.

BUT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT ALL THE PARTIES SHOULD FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A FAIR CHANCE. MY GREATEST CONCERN IS THAT NOTHING SHOULD JUSTIFY ANY PARTY IN SAYING IN ADVANCE THAT THE ELECTION WILL NOT BE FAIR AND REFUSING TO TAKE PART: OR REFUSING AFTERWARDS TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT UNFAIR TACTICS HAD DEPRIVED THEM OF THEIR CHANCE TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE DURING THEIR CAMPAIGN.

SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS HAVE TOLD THE GOVERNOR THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CAMPAIGN IN MUCH OF THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. THEIR DIFFICULTIES HAVE INCLUDED THE ABDUCTION AND MURDER OF PARTY WORKERS AND OFFICIALS. THEY HAVE URGED THE GOVERNOR TO TAKE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION, REMINDING HIM OF THE PROMISE WE GAVE AT LANCASTER HOUSE THAT NO PARTY WHICH PRACTISED SYSTEMATIC INTIMIDATION WOULD BE ALLOWED TO WIN THE ELECTIONS UNFAIRLY. MANY OF THEIR COMPLAINTS ARE SUPPORTED BY OUR ELECTION SUPERVISORS AND BY THE COMMONWEALTH MONITORING FORCE.

THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNOR BEING BIASED OR ONE-SIDED IN TAKING ACTION TO DEAL WITH UNFAIR PRACTICES. FOR INSTANCE, IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO HIS NOTICE THAT POLITICAL PAMPHLETS HAVE BEEN DROPPED BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT. HE HAS GIVEN CLEAR ORDERS THAT THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH IS IMPROPER, SHALL CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

I WILL NOT REPLY IN GREAT DETAIL TO ALL THE OTHER POINTS

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YOU MAKE. I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO MISS CHIBESEKUNDA ABOUT SOME OF THEM, AND MR NEILSON WILL BE ABLE TO BRIEF YOUR OFFICIALS ON THE OTHERS. BUT I REALLY WAS VERY SURPRISED TO READ WHAT YOU HAD SAID TO THE BELGIAN OBSERVER ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN RHODESIA. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES ARE NOT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY OR IN THE PLACES YOU SUGGEST: NOR IS THERE ANY QUESTION OF OUR HAVING INVITED SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN. THERE ARE SOUTH AFRICANS IN THE RHODESIAN FORCES, ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONALITIES, BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE COMPOSITION OF THE FORCES OF EITHER SIDE IN THIS PERIOD. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT ALL THE RHODESIAN FORCES SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY MONITORED AND THIS IS THE CASE. IF YOU PROVIDE ME WITH DETAILS OF WHERE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE TRAINING ZAMBIAN DISSIDENTS, I WILL HAVE AN INVESTIGATION MADE IMMEDIATELY.

WE HAVE MADE A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO MONITOR THE AUXILIARIES. WHERE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THEM HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO BE TRUE, THE GOVERNOR HAS DISCIPLINED THEM. IN SOME CASES ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE COURTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS, I WILL ASK THE GOVERNOR TO INVESTIGATE THEM IMMEDIATELY AND REPORT THE RESULTS TO ME.

THE REASON WHY THE GOVERNOR HAS TO DEPLOY SOME OF THE RHODESIAN FORCES, INCLUDING THE AUXILIARIES, IS THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND ZANLA FORCES HAVE NOT ASSEMBLED AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERY MANY BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRE. YOU CAN SEE THAT THIS IS THE CASE IF YOU LOOK AT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND: IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY ALL IS PEACEFUL AND THE CAMPAIGN IS PROGRESSING NORMALLY. THERE ARE SCARCELY ANY AUXILIARIES IN THE AREA. BUT IN THE EAST, WHERE THERE IS VIOLENCE AND TURMOIL, THE GOVERNOR HAS TO DEPLOY FORCES TO DEAL WITH THIS, JUST AS THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENTS ENVISAGED.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS CALLED UP RESERVISTS FOR THE SHORT PERIOD OF THE ELECTIONS. THIS IS A NECESSARY

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STEP TO GUARD THE POLLING STATIONS, TO PROVIDE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PEOPLE CAN BE SURE THEY WILL NOT BE HARMED WHEN GOING TO VOTE AND TO ESTABLISH POLLING STATIONS IN SOME OF THE FAR AWAY RURAL AREAS. OUR ELECTION STAFF WILL BE THERE TO ENSURE THAT THE VOTERS ARE NOT INTIMIDATED AT THE POLLS. AS YOU WILL KNOW, WE ARE SENDING OVER 500 POLICEMEN FROM BRITAIN TO REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS.

IT REALLY IS NOT THE CASE, KENNETH, THAT THE GOVERNOR DEPENDS ON THE RHODESIANS FOR ALL HIS INFORMATION. THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN SO IN THE BEGINNING. BUT NOW WE HAVE THE MONITORING FORCE, THE ELECTION SUPERVISORS ALL ROUND THE COUNTRY, AND OUR OWN POLICE ADVISERS WHO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION AND ARE ABLE TO CHECK REPORTS WE ARE GIVEN. AND HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS NO AUTHORITY WHEN YOU CONSIDER ALL THE POSITIVE STEPS HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO TAKE SINCE HE ARRIVED IN RHODESIA: THE FREEING OF POLITICAL DETAINEES: THE END TO CENSORSHIP AND EXECUTIONS: PUTTING A STOP TO THE ATTACKS ON ZAMBIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES: GETTING THE MAIZE SHIPMENTS RESTARTED? OF COURSE THERE IS NOT COMPLETE CONTROL, DOWN TO THE LEVEL OF EVERY MINOR OFFICIAL. BUT OVERALL THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE IN CHARGE.

I WAS WORRIED BY WHAT YOU SAY IN YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT THE REFUGEES AND HAVE ENQUIRED INTO IT STRAIGHT AWAY. I BELIEVE THAT THE REPORTS REACHING YOU ARE EXAGGERATED. WE HAVE LOOKED IN DETAIL INTO THE ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT TORTURE AND ILLTREATMENT. BUT WE HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE FOR THEM, THOUGH THERE WAS ONE VERY SAD ACCIDENT WHEN SOME RECENTLY RETURNED REFUGEES WERE KILLED WHEN THEY WERE MISTAKEN FOR BANDITS AT NIGHT. THERE HAS TO BE SOME SCREENING OF THE REFUGEES TO MAKE SURE THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL DO NOT RETURN IN VIOLATION OF THE LANCASTER HOUSE AGREEMENTS. BUT WE HAVE ARRANGED THAT THE MONITORS AND OUR POLICE ADVISERS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY STEP OF THE SCREENING PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO MISTREATMENT.

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KENNETH, I OF COURSE AGREE THAT THERE ARE MANY DANGERS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP THEM UNDER CONTROL AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. IT IS VITAL THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE NO DIRECT INTEREST IN SEEING THIS ENTERPRISE SUCCEED AND HAVE NO WISH TO SEE PEACE BETWEEN RHODESIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE AND CAUSE TROUBLE. I RESPECT YOUR PLEDGE TO ACCEPT THE OUTCOME OF A FAIR ELECTION. WE WANT WHAT IS BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS, THAT IS A STABLE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BRING THEM PEACE AND PROSPERITY. IT IS FOR THEM TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE IN THAT GOVERNMENT. BUT IF WE LET ANY PARTY, AND I MEAN ANY PARTY, USE UNFAIR MEANS, THERE IS A TERRIBLE RISK THAT EVERYTHING WE ACHIEVED WITH YOUR HELP WILL BE PUT IN JEOPARDY.

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER CONCERNS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME STRAIGHT AWAY AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO SORT THEM OUT. PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH US FOR WHAT WE BOTH WANT AND YOUR COUNTRY, ABOVE ALL, DESERVES.

YOURS

MARGARET THATCHER
END OF TEXT

CARRINGTON

FILES
RHOD DEPT
OADS
NAD
FUSD
PLANNING STAFF
CCD
FRD
ECD(E)
UND
LEGAL ADVISERS
(MR FREELAND)
ECON DEPT

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
SIR A ACLAND

LORD N G LENNOX
MR DAY
MR FERGUSSON
MR ASPIN
MR MILLS
GPO

ADDITIONAL DIST.
RHODESIA POLICY

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