



ZIMBABWE RHODESIA

PRIME MINISTER  
SALISBURY

12 October 1979

Lord Carrington  
Secretary for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs  
LONDON

My dear Lord Carrington,

Five weeks have elapsed since I and my delegation left our country to attend this Conference. After full and exhaustive discussion on the issues involved in the Constitutional proposals, both in plenary and in bilateral meetings, the British Government tabled its proposals for the independence constitution on 3 October 1979. On 5th October I announced that, on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, I accepted the proposals - subject to agreement on matters relating to the implementation of the proposals and I called for the immediate lifting of sanctions. This acceptance of the proposals was formally conveyed to you, Sir, at the plenary meeting on Monday, 8th October.

The Patriotic Front, on the other hand, despite the fact that exhaustive discussions had taken place and you had made it clear that the proposals you had tabled were for acceptance or rejection but not for re-negotiation, came up with counter proposals, the effect of which would be to negate the work already done. At the plenary meeting held on 11th October the Patriotic Front was again equivocal in its reply to your proposals and now a further adjournment of the Conference has been granted for an indefinite period.

I must protest most strongly at this further delay in the business of the Conference. This last week has been completely unproductive. As I made clear when I accepted the invitation to attend the Conference, I am responsible for the government of my country and this is affected, to some extent, by the fact that I and many of my Ministers have been away from our country for so long. There are still very complex matters to be discussed and, in the meantime, people in my country are being killed or wounded and sanctions continue to be maintained. I must advise you that I and my Ministers cannot stay in London indefinitely. In the interests of good government, we will soon have to return to Salisbury. I trust that you will ensure that the business of the Conference proceeds expeditiously without any further delays.

Yours sincerely,

Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa