

Zimbabwe

GR 320

CONFIDENTIAL

Read in full.
mf

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 191635Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 410 OF 19 FEBRUARY 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE HARARE, PRIORITY CAPE TOWN, MODUK (MO2, DS11)

YOUR TELNO 291: ZIMBABWE

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MR ONSLOW, CROCKER AND WISNER EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZIMBABWE. THEY WERE RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT NHONGO'S PLANS (OF WHICH THEY WERE AWARE) TO DEMOBILISE ONLY EX-ZIPRA PERSONNEL FROM THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SHELVED.

2. CROCKER SAID THAT REPORTS OF ATROCITIES IN MATABELELAND BY THE FIFTH BRIGADE CLEARLY WERE WELL-FOUNDED. THIS KIND OF ACTION, CONDUCTED BY NORTH KOREAN TRAINED UNITS, WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON CONGRESS AND US OPINION GENERALLY. MR ONSLOW SAID THAT WE SHARED CROCKER'S CONCERN, BUT NEEDED TO ACT IN A WAY WHICH COULD HELP AND NOT FURTHER COMPLICATE THE SITUATION. THIS POINTED TO MAKING OUR CONCERN CLEAR TO THE ZIMBABWEAN AUTHORITIES, BUT TO THE AVOIDANCE OF DRAMATIC OR HIGHLY PUBLICISED GESTURES. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT WE AND THE AMERICANS SHOULD TAKE SIMILAR ACTION. WE WERE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO DO THIS AND WOULD WANT THIS TO BE DISCUSSED BY SQUIRE WITH CROCKER AT THE AFRICA DIRECTORS' MEETING IN OTTAWA. WHITE MORALE IN THE AREA HAD IMPROVED SOMEWHAT FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ALLOW THE FARMERS TO TAKE NECESSARY SECURITY MEASURES.

3. CROCKER SAID THAT, WHEN ASKED, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FIFTH BRIGADE AND WOULD SAY THAT THIS WAS BEING BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ZIMBABWEAN AUTHORITIES. WE NOTED THAT THE PROSPECTS OF INFLUENCING THE SITUATION AND MAINTAINING WESTERN INTERESTS IN ZIMBABWE POINTED TO THE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR ASSISTANCE THERE, WHILE URGING ON THE MORE RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT THE NEED FOR A RETURN TO A POLICY OF RECONCILIATION.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION EAGLEBURGER AGREED THAT THE NEED IN ZIMBABWE WAS TO QUOTE STAY WITH IT UNQUOTE.

WRIGHT

LIMITED
C AF D
DEF D
S AF D
PS

PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR SQUIRE

COPIES TO
PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

CONFIDENTIAL