



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

You should be aware of this.

London SW1A 2AH

It is to be hoped that the Zimbabwe government will let Mr. Smith go to South Africa on his Zimbabwe passport. but if he asks us for a British one we shall almost certainly have to agree.

8 March 1983

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for John,

Mr Ian Smith's Passport

Mr Ian Smith has enquired at the British High Commission, Harare, about obtaining a British passport and may soon apply for one.

The background to Mr Smith's approach is that in December last year the Zimbabwean authorities confiscated his passport after allegations that he had denounced Zimbabwe during visits to the United States and Britain. A request for it to be returned has been publicly turned down by Mr Ushewokunze. Mr Smith told our High Commission that he wishes to travel to South Africa for medical treatment (last year he suffered what may have been a minor stroke) and enquired about the possibility of a British passport. His father was born in the United Kingdom. Mr Smith has not yet applied for a passport but an application form was collected on his behalf. Evidence suggests that the reason he gave for wishing to travel is genuine.

Under our rules, we would only refuse to issue a passport in the cases of certain clearly defined classes of individual, such as those involved in serious crime (UDI offences have been ^{5/3}amnestied) or whose activities are so demonstrably undesirable that to grant a passport would be contrary to the public interest. Validity is only normally restricted when the claims of the applicant require further investigation or the existing passport has been lost. The fact that Mr Smith is a dual national does not alter the situation. Even if Mr Smith is given a British passport, the Zimbabweans could still stop his departure, and his dual nationality would then preclude formal intervention by us.

/The Secretary



The Secretary of State sees no reason for us to refuse a passport. We have instructed our High Commissioner in Harare to warn the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Ushewokunze, that we almost certainly would grant a passport should Mr Smith apply for one. We hope that this approach might possibly make the Zimbabweans think again about refusing to allow Mr Smith to leave on his Zimbabwe passport; it should in any case help to minimise adverse Zimbabwean reactions to a grant of a passport by us.

*Yours
R B Bone*

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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