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Handwritten initials: JH
CFO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 May 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T72/83

Dear Prime Minister

I would very much have liked to see you during your stopover in London but, as I am sure you will understand, the combination of the election and my departure to the Williamsburg Summit on 28 May made it very difficult on this occasion. I have nevertheless asked Sir A. Acland, in conveying this message to you, to offer you my greetings and best wishes and to express the hope that you and Mrs. Mugabe enjoy your brief visit. May I add that I look forward very much to seeing you in New Delhi later in the year.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Handwritten line

Handwritten mark

The Honourable R.G. Mugabe

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 May 1983

Zimbabwe

Thank you for your letter of 25 May.

The Prime Minister has approved the proposed message from herself to Mr. Mugabe. I enclose the signed version and should be grateful if, as you suggest, Sir Antony Acland were able to deliver this when he calls on Mr. Mugabe. The Prime Minister has noted that the matter of the Zimbabwe Air Force officers will be raised with Mr. Mugabe.

AK

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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NR



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*If you agree, perhaps you
would sign the attached
letter to Mr. Mugabe.*

25 May 1983

A.J.C. ^{25.}/₅

John [unclear]

[Handwritten signature]

Zimbabwe

I mentioned to you that Mr Mugabe will be making a brief stopover in London on 27-28 May on his way back from his visit to three Eastern European countries. His stay in London will be a private one and he has not asked for any official calls. We have nevertheless asked the Ambassador in East Germany to explain to him that Ministers would unfortunately not be able to see him on this occasion, but to offer a courtesy call on 28 May by Sir Antony Acland. Mr Mugabe is also being invited to an informal lunch by Lord Carrington on 28 May, at which Sir A Acland will be present.

Mr Pym suggests that it might be helpful if Sir A Acland were able to convey to Mr Mugabe a short courtesy letter from the Prime Minister (draft enclosed). This would be an appropriate gesture: it would also help to establish the right atmosphere in which to raise points of business. We have in mind particularly the case of the Zimbabwe Air Force Officers. The trial began on 23 May and is likely to last for a few weeks. While there is good reason to believe that it will be fair, there is still a danger that those found not guilty might be re-arrested. We have pointed out to the Zimbabwe Government through both formal and informal channels the adverse effect this would have on British public and Parliamentary opinion and on that of other Western aid donor countries. This seems an excellent opportunity to make the point direct to Mr Mugabe, and Sir A Acland proposes to do this either during his call or at the subsequent lunch.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

LETTER

DRAFT: ~~xxxxx~~/letter/~~xxxxx~~/xxxxx/xxxxx

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
THE PRIME MINISTER

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

The Honourable E G Mugabe
Prime Minister of the Republic of
Zimbabwe

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I would very much have liked to see you during your stopover in London, but, as I am sure you will understand, the combination of the election and my departure to the Williamsburg Summit on 28 May made it very difficult on this occasion. I have nevertheless asked Sir A Acland, in conveying this message to you, to offer you my greetings and best wishes and to express the hope that you and Mrs Mugabe enjoy your brief visit. May I add that I look forward very much to seeing you in New Delhi later in the year.

Enclosures—flag(s).....



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RECORD OF A MEETING:

CONVERSATION BETWEEN PUS AND PRIME MINISTER MUGABE AT HEATHROW ON
27 MAY 1983

1. On Prime Minister Mugabe's arrival at Heathrow, the PUS was able to have about half an hour's conversation with him. The following were the main points.
2. The PUS handed to Mr Mugabe the Prime Minister's letter, the letter from Mr Onslow and the message from Lord Soames, with suitable explanations. Mr Mugabe read them all and said that in the circumstances he did not expect Ministerial attention. His visit was essentially transit and he would be coming again later. Mr Mugabe confirmed, with regret, that he did not feel able to accept Lord Carrington's luncheon invitation in the country, but looked forward to seeing him when he (Mr Mugabe) passed through London on his way to the ILO Conference.
3. After asking what General Acland was doing, Mr Mugabe said that the monitoring force and BMATT had made a major contribution. The PUS referred to the decision that BMATT would continue for a further period and said that he hoped that a useful role would be agreed for it. Mr Mubabe expressed his appreciation.
4. The PUS said that the concentration of the media on the general election left little room at present for reports on Zimbabwe. There was, however, a lot of interest in Zimbabwe who had many friends in this country. One subject on which there was particular interest was the trial of the Air Force Officers. Mr Mugabe had told Mr Onslow that they would be brought to trial about now, and this had been proved right. It was a good thing that the trial had started, and it was important to get the whole episode ended and out of the way. If asked, we were taking the line that it was an internal matter for Zimbabwe, and that we had every confidence in the process of justice and were sure that any of those acquitted would be released. This is what Mr Mugabe had said would happen,

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and we were confident that this was what would happen. Mr Mugabe smiled but did not comment, though a side remark to the Acting High Commissioner showed that he had understood the point.

5. Mr Mugabe then showed interest in the latest position on Namibia, and the PUS brought him up-to-date. Mr Mugabe commented that the US and South Africa were making the linkage question the most important aspect. The PUS said that whatever the formal position about linkage might be, the withdrawal of Cuban forces had become an inevitable issue which had to be dealt with. In fact all those concerned in the negotiations could share the objective of Cuban withdrawal: what was needed was to find a way of achieving it which gave confidence to the Angolan Government that their security would not be endangered. In reply to an enquiry from Mr Mugabe, the PUS undertook to provide for him the text of Sir J Thomson's speech in the Security Council debate [this was later done].

6. There was then a brief discussion on the Arab/Israel question.

7. At the end of the discussion Miss Solesby raised the question of Lord Chelwood's wish to call on Mr Mugabe. Mr Mugabe agreed, but made clear that he would not give him a press interview in London.

Central African Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
31 May 1983

Distribution:

PS/No.10 Downing Street ✓	Mr Squire
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