

PERSONAL



Zimbabwe

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

22 July 1983

You may like to know what happened following your telephone conversation with me about the "TV Eye" programme on the trial of the RAF officers in Zimbabwe. Thank you also for your letter of yesterday.

The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Home Secretary shared your anxiety about this programme. Their concern was passed on to the Chairman of the IBA, and I understand that discussions continued throughout yesterday between the Home Office and the IBA and between the IBA and Thames Television. The Chairman and some of the members of the IBA personally saw the programme, but their eventual decision was that it should be allowed to go ahead.

We can now only hope that the repercussions are not damaging. Thank you for letting me know about the problem: we were able to ensure that the IBA considered it further at the highest level, with knowledge of the Government's concern.

F. E. R. BUTLER

The Lord Goodman, C.H.

PERSONAL

BT

GOODMAN DERRICK & CO.

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CABLES AND TELEGRAMS: LITSURE, LONDON, W.C.1

TELEX: 21210 LITLAW G

L.D.E. 122

YOUR REF

OUR REF G/CM

DATE 21st July 1983

Dear Mr. Butler,

I thought it might be useful if you had a copy of the letter that I received containing the text of the telex sent to England.

I have, in the interval, also spoken to the television company and supplied them with a copy of the telex. I spoke to the Director General of the IBA immediately after receiving the letter and was informed by him that he would immediately investigate the matter and communicate with me. I heard no more from him and assumed that the matter was dead until late yesterday when I received a telephone call from his deputy saying they were intending to show the programme this very evening. I understand that it was in fact 'trailed' yesterday.

I have also spoken to the Chairman of the company who, I believe, is very concerned and there the matter stands at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

Goodman

BY HAND - URGENT

F.E.R. Butler, Esq.,
PPS to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Lovell, White & King

PN Gerrard
DW Shenton
PJ Andras
JD Burridge
GJB Hutchings
GF Grimes
AC Swan
DF Gray
HN Henshaw
JJT Stephens
GK Toland
SBullimore
RNH Gould
MB Maunsell
PR Phillipps
MD Shankland
AJ White

JB Gordon
MPL Wright
WIR Ward
PG Horrocks
RA Strachan
AD Walker
TAR Curran
JRH Kitching
DC Mace
RJ Anderson
PGH Collins
CIMajor
DBD Moody
CPRentoul
Harriet Dawes
DFarrington
RHP Sleigh

DG Ainslie
Lesley Belton
CP Dodson
MB Hutchings
AS Lamplough
GF Pimlott
ID Smith
PJ Peacock
APF Williamson
AW Foyle
NSF Glennie
D Macfarlane
SW Polito
MJ Seymour
MOFHill
CL Pike
JG Trotter

21 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY
Telephone 01-236 6011
Telex 887122

Fax Groups 2 & 3 01-248 4212
LDE Box 57
Cables/Telegrams Loviting EC1

14th July, 1983

Your Reference

Our Reference 12/DWS/CH

The Lord Goodman, CH
Messrs. Goodman, Derrick & Co.,
9/11 Fulwood Place,
Gray's Inn,
London. WC1V 6HQ

URGENT - BY HAND

Dear Lord Goodman,

Trial of Airforce Officers in Zimbabwe

I have just received a telex from Mr. Alcock, of
Gill Godlonton & Gerrans, reading as follows:-

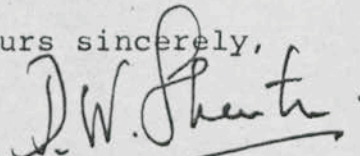
"To: Lord Goodman or Mr. Mansell

Thames Television is apparently making a film for its
programme T.V. Eye about the Zimbabwe airforce
trial. We believe this programme is scheduled to be
screened in Britain on the 21st July 1983. The
verdict in the airforce case is not expected before
the end of August 1983. It is our view and the view
of Mr. H. H. Ognal Q.C. that the screening of such
programme prior to verdict could produce angry
political consequences in Zimbabwe to the potential
prejudice of our clients interests in the trial.
Please could you advise Thames Television and the
Independent Broadcasting Authority of our misgivings
and could you tell them that we request that the
screening of the T.V. Eye programme be postponed
until after the Zimbabwe High Court gives its verdict.

Regards,
P. K. Alcock,
Gill Godlonton and Gerrans".

Anything that you or Mr. Mansell can do in this
direction will be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID W. SHENTON

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
CONFIDENTIAL

NBPM



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

26 July 1983

R. Butler

AR 26/7

Dear Richard,

Although the episode of the Thames TV programme about the Zimbabwe Air Force trial is now in the past, there is one amplification that we felt should be made. The minute of Thursday's Cabinet discussion (CC(83)24th Conclusions, Minute 2, third paragraph) records Lord Goodman as having said that the IBA had told him that they declined to stop the broadcast. This is certainly what Lord Goodman implied in his letter of 21 July to Robin Butler. However the IBA assure us that, when their Director of Television spoke to Lord Goodman (on 20 July), no decision had been taken and that this was made clear to Lord Goodman: indeed he was asked to provide further details of the telex message from Harare (which he never provided). The IBA did not reach a final decision on the programme until about 6.00 pm on Thursday, about three hours before transmission time; then the Chairman and some other Members of the Authority having viewed the final version of the programme and discussed fully the case for and against intervention decided that it would be right to transmit it. Lord Goodman and others were then informed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of the Cabinet.

Yours ever,

Tony Rawsthorne

A R RAWSTHORNE

Richard Hatfield, Esq

CONFIDENTIAL

Zimbabwe
Relations
pt 3

26 JUL 1983

