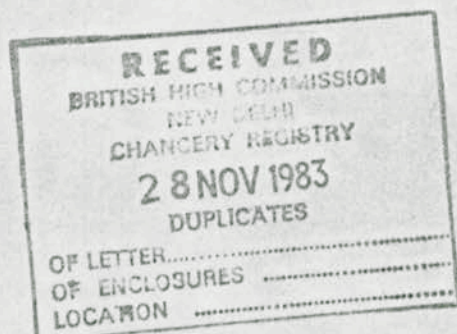


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IMMEDIATE



OO FCO

OO NEW DELHI (CHOGM DELEGATION)

GR 370

UNCLASSIFIED

FM HARARE 280950Z NOV 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 945 OF 28 NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI (FOR LEAHY WIBH CHOGM DELEGATION)

NEW DELHI TELNO 935: **PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR MUGABE**

1. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS OVER THE WEEKEND CARRIED REPORTS FROM DELHI OF THE MEETING, UNDER THE HEADLINES "PM AND THATCHER DISCUSS PROBLEMS" AND THATCHER TALKS WERE 'FRANK'. A REPORT ON SATURDAY SAID THAT BRITAIN AND ZIMBABWE HAD AGREED THAT EACH HAD TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S RIGHT TO RUN ITS OWN AFFAIRS. THE PRIME MINISTER IS SAID TO HAVE EXPLAINED THAT SHE FELT SHE HAD HAD TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ABOUT THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS. HER REMARKS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED AND THAT HAD LED TO THE STRAIN IN RELATIONS. MUGABE HAD EMPHASISED THAT WHAT ZIMBABWE DID ACCORDING TO HER OWN LAWS WAS HER OWN BUSINESS. THE TWO LEADERS HAD PARTED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT "THERE SHOULD BE MUTUAL RESPECT" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
2. TODAY'S REPORT, AGAIN BY THE HERALD'S REPORTER IN NEW DELHI, SAYS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ASSURED MUGABE THAT SHE HAD NOT PERSONALLY ASKED THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER TO RAISE THE DETENTION OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS WITH MUGABE: "IT NOW BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS DONE BY LOWER-ECHELON BRITISH OFFICIALS, WITHOUT MRS THATCHER'S KNOWLEDGE". MUGABE IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT IT WAS THIS REVELATION WHICH HAD INFURIATED HIM AND PROVOKED HIM TO ACCUSE HER OF MEDDLING IN ZIMBABWE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I AM SAID TO HAVE MET MUGABE - AGAINST MANGWENDE'S ADVICE - "TO SPEAK TO THE LETTER" FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MUGABE. THE MEETING HAD BEEN STORMY AND I HAD EMERGED "SHAKEN". THE REPORT GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD EXPLAINED THAT SHE HAD BEEN BOUND TO REPLY TO WEEKLY QUESTIONS IN THE COMMONS: SHE HOPED THAT, ARMED WITH MR MUGABE'S EXPLANATIONS, SHE WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO ANSWER "MORE FORTHRIGHTLY THAN IN THE PAST, WHEN SHE HAD SOMETIMES TO EVADE THE QUESTION".
3. MANGWENDE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN "FRANK" AND HAD STRAIGHTENED OUT MANY ISSUES WHICH HAD CLOUDED BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. SEE MIFT.

RECEIVED
 BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
 NEW DELHI
 CHANCERY HOUSE
 28 NOV 1983
 DUPLICATES
 OF LETTER.....
 OF ENCLOSURES.....
 LOCATION.....

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

LUK 815

LEO/776/28

OO FCO

OO NEW DELHI (CHOGM DELEGATION)

GR 160

CONFIDENTIAL

FM HARARE 281000Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 946 OF 28 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI (FOR LEAHY WITH CHOGM DELEGATION)

MIPT: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR MUGABE

1. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE REPORTS THAT THEY WERE BASED ON BRIEFING BY A MEMBER OF MUGABE'S PARTY, MOST PROBABLY MANGWENDE. THIS IS IRRATING, PARTICULARLY GIVEN MUGABE'S APPARENT EARLIER WISH THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE KEPT ENTIRELY PRIVATE. THEY ARE TYPICALLY SLANTED TO PORTRAY MUGABE AS HAVING STUCK TO HIS GUNS AND THE PRIME MINISTER AS HAVING MADE EXCUSES FOR HER ACTIONS. THE STORY THAT MANGWENDE ADVISED AGAINST MY MEETING MUGABE IS OF COURSE A FABRICATION.

2. I HOPE THAT WE CAN STICK TO THE LINE IN PARA 2 OF NEW DELHI TELNO 935. HOWEVER ANNOYING THESE REPORTS MAY BE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO INTERPRET THEM, AT LEAST IN PART, AS FACE-SAVING PREPARATION FOR AN EARLY ZIMBABWEAN "CONCESSION" OVER THE REMAINING AIR FORCE OFFICERS. IF SO, THAT CAN ONLY BE WELCOME.

EWANS

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