



file USA VB
cc: FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 October 1979

Dear Senator Helms,

I was grateful for your letter of 12 September about Rhodesia. I am sorry not to have replied earlier, but I thought that before doing so it would be best to wait to judge the progress made in the Constitutional Conference.

As you know, I want to see sanctions against Rhodesia lifted as soon as possible. I am now confident that the Conference in which we are engaged will help us to achieve this aim. We regard adequate safeguards for the white minority as an essential part of the independence Constitution. We have provided for this in the constitutional proposals we have put forward. (I enclose a copy.) As you will know, Bishop Muzorewa has announced his acceptance in principle of our constitutional proposals.

What Rhodesians need above all is a settlement which will bring them international acceptance. They are looking to the Conference to achieve this: it would provide the strongest encouragement to them to remain in the country. We shall not allow anyone to exercise a veto over a settlement we believe to be fair and reasonable. But we are determined to bring about a solution which will bring Rhodesia to legal independence and enable us and others to lift sanctions with the widest possible international acceptance. I am confident that we are making progress in that direction.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Roger Douglas White

Senator Jesse Helms

BK

USA



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October 1979

Dear Michael,

RHODESIA: SENATOR HELMS

You agreed that we should delay recommendations about a reply to Senator Helms' letter of 12 September to the Prime Minister (enclosed with your letter to me of 17 September) until we were clearer about the position reached in the US Congress on sanctions against Rhodesia.

It now appears that the amendment to the Defence Authorisation Bill will be a "sense of Congress" resolution, which will not oblige the US Administration to lift sanctions at this stage.

--- I enclose a draft reply which Lord Carrington recommends the Prime Minister might now send to Senator Helms.

Tom
Walden

(G G H Walden)

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

Registry
No.

DRAFT LETTER

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.To:- Senator Jesse Helms
US SENATEFrom
PRIME MINISTER
Telephone No. Ext.

Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

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As you will know, Bishop Muzorewa has announced his acceptance in principle of our constitutional proposals.

What Rhodesians need above all is a settlement which will bring them international acceptance. They are looking to the Conference to achieve this: it would provide the strongest encouragement to them to remain in the country. ~~We shall be doing our utmost to achieve this.~~ We shall not allow anyone to exercise a veto over a settlement we believe to be fair and reasonable. But we are determined to bring about a solution which will bring Rhodesia to legal independence and enable us and others to lift sanctions with the widest possible international acceptance. I am confident that we are making progress in that direction.

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Respects mine
Paul

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8 OCT 1979



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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Draft approved by Lord
Cannington

Ans

I have rung up the
FCO to ask them to
send us this enclosure
as soon as pass.
VLS 9/10.

✓
P. B. C.