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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 711 OF 27 FEBRUARY 1981

INFO SALISBURY ODA UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM MAPUTO GABORONE LUANDA MOSCOW

MIPT (NOT TO ALL): SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH MR HAIG:
ZIMBABWE

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SHOW MAXIMUM GENEROSITY TOWARDS ZIMBABWE AT THE DONORS' CONFERENCE. THE UK WOULD BE PROVIDING SOME DOLLARS 250 MILLION. THERE WAS A RISK THAT THE ZIMBABWEANS WOULD BECOME DISILLUSIONED IF WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROVED INADEQUATE. HAIG INDICATED THAT THE U S HAD BEEN THINKING OF OFFERING DOLLARS 75 MILLION, AND UNDERTOOK TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE ISSUE. HE DID NOT EXPECT THE U S TO BE UNHELPFUL.

2. LORD CARRINGTON SAID THAT RECENT CONTACTS WITH THE ZIMBABWEANS HAD REVEALED A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF RECONCILIATION, AND HAD UNDERLINED THE GOOD SENSE BEING DISPLAYED BY MUGABE. ZIMBABWE DESERVED MORE ASSISTANCE. HAIG, WELCOMING THIS NEWS, ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT AGREEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDERLINED MUGABE'S DISLIKE OF THE RUSSIANS (WHO HAD BACKED THE WRONG HORSE). HE HAD STOOD OUT AGAINST DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOR A LONG TIME BUT HE COULD NOT INDEFINITELY BUCK THE TREND IN BLACK AFRICA. HE HAD HOWEVER IMPOSED A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS ON THE RUSSIANS. THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE MATABELE AND THE SHONA HAD IMPROVED, BUT PROBLEMS REMAINED. IT WAS A MATTER FOR REGRET THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS DID NOT RECOGNISE THAT CLOSER ECONOMIC LINKS WITH ZIMBABWE COULD IMPROVE THEIR OWN POSITION IN AFRICA.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO LUSAKA DAR ES SALAAM MAPUTO GABORONE
LUANDA AND MOSCOW

HENDERSON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

LIMITED
CAF D
NAD
SAFD
FRD
PS

PS/LPS
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
MR DAY
SIR WALLINSON

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