

Ref. A04342

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister
To note.

Better not to reply to Sir R. Welensky,
(would have thought).

Sir Roy Welensky

Yes - no reply not - 2/3

In your minute of 12th January, you informed me that the Prime Minister was content with the arrangements which I submitted in my minute of 9th January for offering financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky for the purchase of a house in the United Kingdom. These arrangements were put to Sir Roy and Lady Welensky at the beginning of February. They were content with and grateful for them, and have now signed an agreement which provides for an interest-free loan of £80,000 for house purchase in the United Kingdom and an annual ex gratia payment of £5,000 per annum which will be applied to the redemption of the loan during the lifetime of Sir Roy or Lady Welensky or for 16 years, whichever is shorter. The money has now been made over to the person who is acting as the intermediary in the house purchase, and contracts for the purchase have been exchanged. Both Sir Roy and Lady Welensky have been reminded of the crucial importance that there should be no leak about this arrangement. The signed agreement, of which only the original exists,

2. Sir Roy Welensky has asked the High Commissioner in Salisbury to arrange delivery of the attached envelope addressed to the Prime Minister. He gave no indication of its contents. No doubt you will let me know if it is anything other than an expression of gratitude for these arrangements.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

2nd March, 1981

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Choderia 9

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Roy Welensky

The Prime Minister has seen and taken note of your minute to me of 2 March.

The letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Roy Welensky attached to your minute proved to be no more than a very brief thank you. The Prime Minister will not be replying.

MODBA

3 March 1981

C

SECRET

& PERSONAL

ds

7

Rhodesia



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

Sir Roy Welensky

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 9 January about Sir Roy Welensky. She agrees that the arrangements summarised in your minute are sensible. She sees no need to pursue the idea of a grace and favour residence.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

12 January 1981

SECRET

& PERSONAL

Q.

SECRET

PERSONAL

Ref. A03946

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister

This seems a sensible arrangement.
Agree?

Am
- 9/1

Sir Roy Welensky

In the light of my recent talk with the Prime Minister I have discussed further the proposed financial assistance to Sir Roy Welensky. I hope that we have now devised arrangements that would be defensible if they became public - though the intention is that they should not do so.

2. It is now proposed to lend Sir Roy Welensky a sum not exceeding £80,000 for the purchase of a house in the United Kingdom. The loan would be free of interest, and would be due for repayment over 16 years. It would be made to Sir Roy Welensky by a solicitor in private practice (who would be put in funds for the purpose), and the agreement would be between this solicitor and Sir Roy and Lady Welensky.

3. An ex gratia award of £5,000 a year would also be made to Sir Roy Welensky in recognition of his past services. This sum would be applied each year to the reduction of the loan. No cash payment would be involved. The award would continue during the lifetime of Sir Roy Welensky and of Lady Welensky (if, as is to be expected, she survives him), and would terminate either on the death of the last survivor of the two or at the end of 16 years, when the loan would have been discharged in full, whichever was earlier.

4.

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

SECRET

PERSONAL

5. I think that the arrangement now proposed is generous to Sir Roy Welensky and defensible, should it become ^{public} knowledge (though I hope it will not). I hope that the Prime Minister will think so too,

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

9th January, 1981



File

259
5

Rhodesia

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

BF 12.12.80

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to me of 3 December about Sir Roy Welensky. The Prime Minister is unhappy at the idea of making an outright gift of money to Sir Roy. She has said that the best solution would be to find him a grace and favour house. If this is not possible, she asked whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office could not purchase the house and give Sir Roy and, ultimately, his widow a joint life interest in it.

Mo@BA

4 December 1980

SP

-Prime Minister-

4

I don't think we can. The better thing would be a private house.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

MR. ALEXANDER

Agree that Sir R. Welensky should be given a gift rather than an interest free loan with which to buy a house in the F.O. premises. He would like this way? Sir Roy would have a joint life interest and

Print - 3/11

You corresponded with Mr. Walden (his letter of 30th April and yours of 17th May) about helping Sir Roy Welensky to find a place in this country.

2. The Prime Minister agreed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary that the best arrangement would be to provide Sir Roy with an interest-free lump sum for the purchase of a house. The last paragraph but one of Mr. Walden's letter of 30th April said that in negotiating with Sir Roy Welensky they would try to make arrangements with him for some repayment, but clearly envisaged that that might not be possible.

3. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have now come back to me to propose that the best solution would be to provide Sir Roy Welensky outright with the wherewithal to purchase a house rather than offer him a loan on "easy terms". They would like to make it an outright gift, so as to "avoid all the complications and insecurity of a continuing relationship over the years", and particularly when Sir Roy Welensky dies and his estate has to be settled. They have also satisfied themselves that Sir Roy Welensky would be in no position to make repayments over a realistic period.

4. There is of course much force in these arguments. If the help was to take the form of a loan or of a gift subject to a reversionary right when Sir Roy and Lady Welensky no longer require it, there would be complications about deciding where and when to seek repayment of the loan or the exercise of the right. As Accounting Officer, however, I feel bound to make the point that an outright gift is a different matter from a loan; or a gift with a reversionary right as a condition. On the latter basis there is a contingent asset to offset against the outgoing and in the former case there is not.

5. I would not myself wish to strain at making the help to Sir Roy Welensky an outright gift: I think he has deserved sufficiently well of this country to justify that. But, as the Prime Minister approved an interest-free loan rather than a gift I should like to be sure that she is also content with the new proposal.

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

3rd December 1980



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1980

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
CABINET OFFICE

1. Mr Alexander *Am*
2. PA.
ms
2xii

Dear Robert,

SIR ROY WELENSKY

1. You will remember the letters exchanged between George Walden and Michael Alexander (dated 30 April and 7 May respectively) about the proposal to provide Sir Roy Welensky with a sum of money for the purchase of a house in the United Kingdom. Sir Roy's concern was not just to give himself the opportunity of retiring here but to provide for the security of his wife, who is English, after his death.
2. We have had detailed discussions with Sir Roy during the intervening months and it has become clear that the best solution would be to provide him outright with the wherewithall for a house purchase, rather than pay him and his widow a pension or offer them a loan on easy terms. An outright gift would enable us to make a once and for all transaction through a solicitor and so avoid all the complications and insecurity of a continuing relationship over the years. These complications would be particularly acute at the time of his death and the settlement of his estate. Moreover it is clear from the detailed examination we have made of Sir Roy's finances that he would be in no position to make repayments over a realistic period and that to ask him or his widow to do so would vitiate our purpose in giving him this support. Even with a gift, he and his wife will have to live fairly modestly in England, and they have shown themselves to be realistic about this prospect.
3. I have been very concerned about the way in which implementation of this proposal has hung fire. Lady Welensky visited the United Kingdom in August and was in touch with a solicitor, but was not able to find a suitable house at the right price and went back to Zimbabwe after three weeks when her husband's health took a turn for the worse.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

/She



She and Sir Roy then decided that they would buy one of the houses she had seen and rejected, only to find that it had by then been withdrawn from the market. Our High Commissioner in Salisbury has kept in touch with Sir Roy urging him not to let matters drag on, and, during my recent visit there, without seeing Sir Roy personally, I emphasised our concern that the business should be concluded swiftly. We have now heard that Lady Welensky will be coming to the United Kingdom on January 8 to resume the search, and I hope that we will be able to settle the affair shortly thereafter.

True copy,
Michael

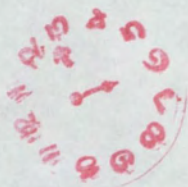
Michael Palliser

cc: C A Whitmore Esq
No 10 Downing Street





22 DEC 1980



7 May 1980

Sir Roy Welensky

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 30 April about Sir Roy Welensky. She agrees with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary that the best arrangement would be to provide Sir Roy with an interest free lump sum for the purchase of a house.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office) only.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

George Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



①
Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary (see final para)

London SW1A 2AH

favours a lump sum payment to enable

Sir Roy Welensky to buy a house here for his wife & young family. Agree?

30 April 1980

Dear Michael

Paul 6/5

Yes not

SIR ROY WELENSKY

You may recall that you wrote to me on 15 November last agreeing that Sir Michael Palliser should pursue with Mr Callaghan the question of how we might best help Sir Roy Welensky with a pension and a place in this country.

Mr Callaghan's advice was that we should make contact with Sir Roy Welensky himself and this we did through the then Deputy Governor in Salisbury, Sir Antony Duff. Not unexpectedly perhaps we found Sir Roy Welensky was showing less urgency than he did when he was over here about an early move to the UK. In effect, like all Rhodesians, he was waiting on events. Since the election, we have not been able to make contact with him. He is now fairly seriously ill with a heart complaint in a Salisbury hospital.

Sir Antony Duff's initial contacts did however establish two new factors. First, Sir Roy Welensky made it clear that his primary concern was not so much with finding a place in the UK in which to spend his last years as with setting up his wife and two children with a financially secure base in the UK after his death. (His second wife comes from Yorkshire and will almost certainly wish to return there after his death with their two children, now aged 4 and 2.) Secondly, it is clear that Sir Roy Welensky commands more financial resources than he had previously led us to believe. He has some £120,000 invested in the UK and £75,000 in Rhodesia. In principle, under current regulations, he cannot withdraw capital from Rhodesia above a pretty nominal amount, but may withdraw interest on the blocked capital.

Sir Roy Welensky has not demurred at the prospect, mentioned to him, that we might be able to consider a pension of up to £10,000 a year but he has made it clear to us that what he wants is a lump sum to help him buy a house in the UK without having to draw upon his capital here, ie he wishes to avoid having to reduce the income upon which he and his family would need to live in future years. Incidentally, we do not know whether Lady Welensky has any financial resources of her own.

/You

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



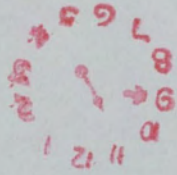
You recorded in your letter of 2 November that the Prime Minister was anxious to do what we could to help Sir Roy Welensky. It may be that you would wish to consult the Prime Minister again in the light of subsequent developments in Rhodesia, what we now know of Sir Roy Welensky's financial resources and his evident intention that the help we provide should go primarily to his wife and children. If however the Prime Minister would continue to wish something to be done for Sir Roy Welensky then money could be made available to him from the Secret Vote.

We have reviewed the various alternatives which include the provision of a pension to Sir Roy Welensky and to his widow after his death. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has come to the conclusion that the cheapest and simplest arrangement would also be the tidiest and most dignified way of treating Sir Roy Welensky. This would be to provide him with an interest-free lump sum for the purchase of a house. We would try to make arrangements with him for some repayments, but even if this did not succeed we think that even at say £70-£80,000 the advantages of a quick finite arrangement would be worth the cost and much preferable to any longer-drawn out arrangement for a pension.

I am copying this letter to David Wright.

Yours ever
G G H

(G G H Walden)



-6 MAY 1980

Rhodesia

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

289



Free

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1979

SIR ROY WELENSKY

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 15 November about Sir Roy Welensky. She agrees that the next step should be for Sir Michael Palliser to pursue the discussion with Mr. Callaghan. I have warned Mr. McCaffrey that Sir Michael will be getting in touch with the Leader of the Opposition.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. O'D. B. Alexander'.

G. G. H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

(1)



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

If you agree I will tell Mr Callaghan's Office that you are anxious to help & that Sir M. Palliser will be getting in touch with Mr Callaghan to carry the matter forward. We will then need to consider how to proceed with Sir R. Welensky the question of what exactly he would like us to try to do for him.

15 November 1979

Speed me

Dear Michael,

Paul 16/11

Thank you for your letter of 2 November about Sir Roy Welensky.

I have discussed the question of funds with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. We think we can help with a pension. The question of providing Sir Roy with a place in this country is something which will have to be taken up with the Home Office.

The next step should be for us to make contact with Mr Callaghan. I wonder whether the Prime Minister would wish you to do this; or whether she would be content for this to be done by Sir Michael Palliser?

✓ Yes me

*Yes me
GGH*

(G G H Walden)

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



Sir Roy WELENSICY

25/11

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 November 1979

I enclose a copy of a letter to me from Tom McCaffrey covering a letter to Mr. Callaghan from Sir Roy Welensky.

I have discussed Sir Roy Welensky's letter with the Prime Minister. She is very anxious that we should do what we can to help. I am not altogether sure how to take the matter further: clearly the ideal would be to be able to offer Sir Roy a place in this country and some kind of pension. Perhaps we could have a word once you have investigated whether there are any funds under the control of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary which could be used.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

W



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From:

The Office of the
Leader of the Opposition

31 October 1979

Dear Michael,

Mr. Callaghan has asked me to send you the attached copy of a letter received from Roy Welensky. I understand that Mr. Callaghan discussed this with you yesterday.

Yours sincerely,

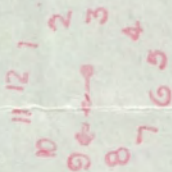
*14
Fleur de Caff.*

Michael Alexander, Esq.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON

2 - NOV 1979



6/8/79

Dear Jim I'm sorry that I
shall not be seeing you, my
doctors have insisted I stay
quiet before my journey home
on Wed: I wanted to thank
you in person for your kind
& encouraging note when I
was so ill. You said to me a
couple of years ago "did I intend
to stay in Z.R." & I replied "yes."
I'm now beginning to wonder
if it's going to be possible to
do so, the problem is where to
go to? There are no jobs for
ex P.M.s at 43 & you know
how little one can take out
of our country about £5000.

& as I have no pension for my
public service that wouldn't last
very long, so I have my
problems. I'm only sorry they
have come so late in life
Tim I wish you well in the
future

Kindest Regards
as ever

Ray Welensky

The last straw in my sad saga
was the demand by S. G. Airways
that I provide a medical certificate
that I'm fit to fly!!