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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3/21/78
P. Williams →

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March 16, 1978

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President has asked me to acknowledge the letter dated March 9 which you and Congressman Diggs sent to him concerning Rhodesia. A reply is in preparation and should reach you soon.

In the meantime I am enclosing relevant portions of the President's Press Conference of March 9 which addresses a number of the questions you raise.

Sincerely,

Zbigniew Brzezinski

The Honorable
Parren J. Mitchell
Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

QUESTION: Mr. President, in view of the great amount of discussion that is going on now about internal Rhodesian settlement which excludes the Patriotic Front, is it possible in your view to have a settlement of the Rhodesian Conference without including Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe?

THE PRESIDENT: I would doubt we could have a permanent settlement without including a right for all the Nationalist leaders to participate. That would include Mugabe, Sithole, and would also, of course, include Nkomo as well. Muzorewa, the other leader, was here yesterday and met with Secretary Vance. We have had a meeting yesterday afternoon between myself, Secretary Vance, and the Foreign Minister of Great Britain, David Owen, and we reconfirmed our position, which has been consistent that the Anglo-American plan is the best basis for a permanent resolution of the Rhodesian or Zimbabwe question. It is one that is substantially supported by the front line Presidents, Presidents of those nations surrounding Rhodesia, and it has not been accepted completely by Nkomo and Mugabe, the Freedom Force leaders outside of Rhodesia.

We hope now that we can have a conference of all the interested Nationalist leaders to try to work out the disparity between the internal settlement proposal, which is not adequate, and the so-called Anglo-American plan, which we believe to be adequate.

We have not rejected the individual component parts of the so-called internal settlement plan. To the extent that they are consistent with the overall Anglo-American plan provisions, they are a step in the right direction. But I think that it must be that any permanent settlement would include the right of all the interested Nationalist leaders to seek the leadership of Rhodesia.

~~QUESTION: Mr. President, what are your plans if the coal miners refuse to obey Taft-Hartley and return to work? What do you do then?~~

THE PRESIDENT: The injunction, if it is granted -- and the hearing for temporary restraining order is commencing now, about 3:30. It is a far-reaching injunction. It prevents the interference of any law violators with those who want to go back to work. It prevents a picketing against those who are complying with the law and mining coal. It requires the coal mine owners and the Mine Workers to make good faith efforts. It prevents the interference