

P.M. Agreed my diff:
ref at meeting
2/10/79

Van Straubenzee
7P

PRIME MINISTER

BILL VAN STRAUBENZEE -
ANGLO-RHODESIAN SOCIETY

1. You will remember that I mentioned to you in May that I was a Member of the Council of the Anglo-Rhodesian Society, and asked whether you thought that I should retire from the Council. You replied that I should not do so.
2. Herewith letter of yesterday's date from Bill Van Straubenzee, together with a copy of a letter which was sent to his Chairman by Lord Salisbury, on behalf of the Anglo-Rhodesian Society.
3. I also attach the reply which, subject to your approval, I have in mind to send Bill.
4. I think that what disturbed Bill was the paragraph numbered 4 of Lord Salisbury's letter. As you know, I hope that the Government will not ask Parliament to renew sanctions next month. However, if you decide that Parliament should be asked to renew sanctions, I will support the Government, and since the Anglo-Rhodesian Society will oppose the renewal of sanctions, I will, at that stage, retire from the Council, unless you think that I ought to do so now.

2nd October, 1979

Ian Gow

Van Straubenzee
77.

22nd October 1979

Many thanks for your letter of 9th October. I have, of course, considered most carefully your two letters, and I have decided that I can properly remain a member of the Council of the Anglo-Rhodesian Society, at any rate for the time being.

Perhaps I may repeat the assurance which I gave you in my letter of 2nd October, namely that I support, fully, the policy of the Government towards Rhodesia.

I will look out for you, because I would certainly like to have a word with you about this.

Ian Gow MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

W R van Straubenzee Esq MBE MP



FROM W. R. VAN STRAUBENZEE, M.B.E. M.P.
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, S.W.1.
01-219 4205
01-219 4343 (MESSAGES)

9 October 1979

My dear Ian

With respect, I do not think that your helpful letter of 2 October really deals with the main point.

The enclosure I sent you from the Anglo Rhodesian Society is in effect specifically urging upon delegates to the Conference to step out of line. It seems to me unhappy, looked at from your point of view, for your name to appear on that notepaper.

Yours,

Bill

Ian Gow Esq TD MP
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This second letter, now received, reinforces my view.

THE ANGLO-RHODESIAN SOCIETY

Telephone: 01-493 4328

Telegrams & Cables: ANGRHOD LONDON WI

10 Dover Street, London, W1X 4EH

2nd October, 1979.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Since I wrote to you last week I understand that an amendment to Motion No. 577 has been submitted by the Nantwich Conservative Association, in the names of the Chairman, Mr. Richard Reeves, and Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Bt., Member of Parliament for Nantwich.

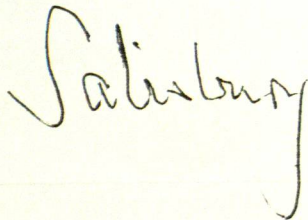
The amendment reads:-

In Motion No. 577 after the words "Her Majesty's Government of", delete the word "a" and substitute the word "the" and after the words "Conservative Manifesto commitment" add "and in view of the Muzorewa Government's acceptance of the British constitutional proposals calls upon Her Majesty's Government to lift sanctions forthwith."

It would appear that this amendment reflects the views of the majority of the motions on Rhodesia submitted to Conference and may well reflect the wishes and desires of many other Associations.

If you agree might I suggest that you advise the Chairman of the National Union of your support for the amendment and express the hope that the amendment will be called. If time permits, I would also be grateful if you could let me know at the address above.

Yours sincerely,



Marquess of Salisbury.

President:

The Marquess of Salisbury

Vice-President:

The Lord Paget of Northampton

Council:

Mr. R. M. Bell, Q.C., M.P.

Major R. A. Dey, M.B.E.

Mr. P. Fleetwood-Hesketh

Mr. Ian Gow, T.D., M.P.

Mr. Stephen Hastings, M.C., M.P.

Mr. F. S. Joelson

Mr. T. D. Lardner-Burke

Mrs. M. Pentland

Mr. Harold Soref

Mr. Lance Tantum

Mr. Patrick Wall, M.C., V.R.D., M.P.

General Secretary:

Mr. T. P. Lawler



FROM W. R. VAN STRAUBENZEE, M.B.E., M.P.
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, S.W.1.
01-219 4003
01-219 4343 (MESSAGES)

1st October, 1979.

My dear Ian,

I hope you will not take amiss a somewhat enquiring note from an old friend.

But I confess I was surprised to see your name on the Council of the Society who have written to my Constituency representatives at the Party Conference. If ever there was a time, surely, for supporting the Government over Rhodesia and not rocking the boat, it is this.

Yours,

Ian Gow, TD., MP.,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

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2nd October, 1979

Many thanks for your letter of 1st October, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter (undated) which had been sent by Lord Salisbury, on behalf of the Anglo-Rhodesian Society, to the Chairman of your Association.

Of course I support the policy of the Government in its policy towards Zimbabwe/Rhodesia.

The Government will be considering, in the light of the outcome of the Lancaster House Conference what recommendations should be made to Parliament about the renewal of sanctions next month.

W.R. Van Straubensee, Esq. M.B.E., M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster, London SW1

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General Secretary:

Mr. T. P. Lawler

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The outcome of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Conference may still not be clear when the Conservative Party Conference comes to debate Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

Many of us, however, consider that the following points can already be made with some certainty:-

1. Lord Home who devised five of the six principles and Sir Harold Wilson who devised the sixth have both declared that the present Rhodesian constitution conforms with the six principles which successive British Governments have sought to secure.
2. Lord Boyd's commission appointed by Mrs. Thatcher found that the Zimbabwe Rhodesian general election held in April was free and fair. So did most other observers.
3. Bishop Muzorewa's delegation to the Lancaster House Conference has now gone further and accepted in principle the additional changes in the Zimbabwe Rhodesian constitution required by H.M.G. as a result of the Lusaka Commonwealth Conference.
4. In these circumstances it seems to us unthinkable that the Conservative leadership which recommended abstention on the sanctions vote last November - before the Rhodesian elections or Bishop Muzorewa's latest concessions to the British viewpoint - could conceivably call for a renewal of sanctions this Autumn.
5. Furthermore, the maintenance of law and order, the production of sufficient food and the revival of the Zimbabwe Rhodesian economy will require the wholehearted co-operation of the white community.

Whatever your personal view on this issue, I feel sure you will accept that it is one of very great importance both internationally and to the people of our country. If you agree with the points I have made, may I suggest that your Association's delegation should give careful consideration to the opinions expressed in the debate and at the end make known their views in the usual way.

Yours sincerely,

Salisbury

Marquess of Salisbury.