

Geneva.

10th December

*Brown - This copy of your letter to Hugh
Dear Hugh, has now ya should have.*

Your long and thought-filled letter arrived last night and has been stirring our brain-fluid into unaccustomed activity all day. We shall be praying for the interview you and Ralph have lined up for Monday; and shall send you a telex with any ideas we have. But I shall buzz this off with a bit of news tonight. If it gets to you before your interview, so much the better.

Adjournment is in the air here. Although Smith has come, Nkomo has followed Ivor Richard to London; and this evening Muzorewa flies to Salisbury - to stage a big demonstration of support and "renew his mandate". Sithole is back here; but all the evidence continues to show that he has lost his following.

Andrew Ndhlala and I have just had a notable 45 minutes with the Bishop. Andrew has been going from group to group, hearing what they are thinking and planning - and himself getting more and more saddened by it all. In guidance with Rob and me this morning, he felt he should take one more shot at the Bishop, on the issue of his relationship with Joshua. He asked me to go with him.

He pitched his shot against the background of what he has learned in talks with Mugabe and Co. (They are determined that only a "freedom fighter shall rule Zimbabwe", and will fight until this is achieved.) Andrew asked me to speak of the thought we had had; I spoke of the need for a miracle, and put it to the Bishop to make an inspired move to win Joshua from Mugabe. He shook his head at once, but then said - "It's not possible - unless there is a miracle, as you say."

Perhaps to avoid the challenge, he then gave Andrew and me his understanding of why Joshua is stuck to Mugabe. He talked of the joint pledge the two men have made to the "front-line Presidents". But behind that is the uneasy armed truce. In ZIPA, the ZANU commanders shot the ZAPU men; there is still deep distrust; the united facade (including the coming here "under orders" of Nhongo and Tongogara) is false; Nkomo and ZAPU are backed by Russians who tell them what to do; Mugabe and ZANU are China-backed.

They will stick together now; but one day will split - and war will come.

I asked him how much of this Ivor Richard understood. He said, "I have told him some of it. I think he knows. Don't underestimate the British Intelligence Service." Then I said, "Nkomo is a mixed-up man. Part of him wants to be the first President of Zimbabwe; part of him loves his country. Will you help to kindle the second part?" It was in response to this that, at the end of the conversation, the Bishop called for prayer and led it himself, for Joshua by name, and Mugabe and Sithole. *(He prayed passionately for a peaceful solution)*

Andrew gave his heart - in itself important, for the two men have not trusted each other much. Abel opened up as I have never known him do, often talking in confidence, and revealing a political astuteness we have known must be there but which I had never met.

Alec's Dad came on the phone this morning, asking for Their Majesties. They have had to go away for the week-end; but Dad said he would contact them on Their return "If I'm still here". Then Ivor's secretary phoned, saying he'd got our letter (Andrew N and I, asking for a date), and would try and fit us in next week.

Chen, Henry