

February 26, 1980
**Telegram, Personal for Secretary, Group Evaluation
of Rhodesian Situation**

Citation:

"Telegram, Personal for Secretary, Group Evaluation of Rhodesian Situation", February 26, 1980, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African Archives, Department of Foreign Affairs BTS 1/156/3 SADFA BTS 1 / 156 / 3 VOL. 4. Included in "Southern Africa in the Cold War, Post-1974," edited by Sue Onslow and Anna-Mart Van Wyk.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/118669>

Summary:

Analysis claiming that Bishop will gain majority of votes in the election. Discuss possibility of coup d'etat by security forces should Mugabe win majority of votes.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Transcript - English

SALISBURY 26 FEBRUARY 1980
PRIORITE SECEXTERN CAPE TOWN
TOP SECRET
NO K 113
PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY.

With reference to last par. K 110 I have to inform you that after group evaluation by heads of safety had been heard it was decided that in the light of—

1. indication that Bishop will indeed draw majority of votes
2. slight difference that any steps by Governor could have at this stage on result and
3. negative international reaction against such steps,
4. no representations are directed to Governor.

After meeting of Lancaster group conversation was carried on only among white members of group. There was inter alia discussion of the possibility of a coup d'état by security forces should Mugabe win election, in order to create status quo before arrival of Governor, but the feeling was that such an action is no longer practical politics.

26-0915-