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parliament, categorically ruled out any role for British troops in a Rhodesian settlement. He said that an international peacekeeping force is something which is being kept in mind, but it would take an immense amount of time to organize and get to Rhodesia.

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ACTION AF-08INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 /090 W 031106

P R 181728Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7817  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
DISMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS LONDON 18605

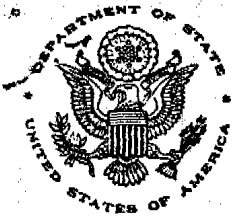
GENEVA FOR WISNER

F.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CROSLAND IN PARLIAMENT

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND, ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 17, CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT ANY ROLE FOR BRITISH TROOPS IN A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. "THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WHICH (THE QUESTIONER) REFERS INVOLVES BRITISH ARMED FORCES BEING SENT TO RHODESIA. THIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT ANY MORE THAN A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD DREAM OF ACCEPTING IT EITHER." CROSLAND REPEATED VARIATIONS OF THIS FORMULATION TO OTHER INQUIRIES.

2. ASKED ABOUT A COMMONWEALTH ROLE, CROSLAND SAID, "AS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES' UNITED NATIONS, COMMONWEALTH OR WHATEVER, THIS IS SOMETHING I AM BEARING IN MIND. THE GREAT OBJECTION TO SOME SUCH INTERNATIONAL

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FORCE IS THAT IT WOULD TAKE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF TIME TO ORGANIZE AND GET TO RHODESIA."

3. CROSLAND ALSO SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA IF HIS PRESENCE WOULD HELP AVERT A COLLAPSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEE A COLLAPSE AS IMMINENT.

4. COMMENT: CROSLAND CHOSE TO INTERPRET RATHER GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT A BRITISH ROLE IN A RHODESIAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS INQUIRIES ABOUT THE DESPATCH OF BRITISH TROOPS. HE DID NOT ADDRESS OTHER, MORE LIMITED FORMS OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION.  
ARMSTRONG

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