CECIL RHODES
(BRITISH EMPIRE)
20th CENTURY
FACT SHEET

- Function: he was the 6th Prime Minister of the Cape Colony
- He was born in 5 July 1853
- He died in 26 March 1902
- Nationality, British
- His father was the Reverend Francis William Rhodes
- His mother was Louisa Peacock Rhodes
- Relationship: he never married and had None children
- Job: Businessman, politician
Rhodes was born in 1853. He was an English businessman from the 19th and 20th century. He believed in colonialism and imperialism. He emigrated to the British colony of South Africa in 1870 to work in the cotton factory of his brother. A year later he left to mine diamonds, and was so successful that taking control over all mines of Kimberley and De Beers around 1888. In 1884 he won the British annexation of Bechuanaland (Botswana), opening the route to the north.
He deceived the king of the Matabele, Lobengula, having them sign a treaty giving Britain a vast territory in which Rhodes founded the colonies of Rhodesia. In 1890 he was the Prime Minister of the Cape and imposed some laws to benefit the owners of mines and industries, such as the Glen Grey Act, which favored the expulsion of blacks from their land to encourage industrial development. He tried to promote reconciliation with the Boers British settlers in a single South Africa under British colonial rule. But he failed and finally, Rhodes, resigned in 1896.
One of Rhodes dreams was for a "red line" on the map from the Cape to Cairo. Rhodes had been instrumental in securing southern African states for the Empire. He and others felt the best way to "unify the possessions, facilitate governance, enable the military to move quickly to hot spots or conduct war, help settlement, and foster trade" would be to build the "Cape to Cairo Railway".

Map Showing almost complete British control of the cape to cairo rote 1914
By Maria Lopez and Judith Toledo