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22 September 1966

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Interagency Southern Rhodesia- Zulu Problem and Plans Group on 20 September (43rd)

1. Mr. Malibenny opened the meeting with a resume of the Commonwealth meeting's communique on Rhodesia, noting among other things that it was still clearly Britain and not the Commonwealth as a whole which had the right to define when Rhodesia was ready to return to a state of grace. Wilson thus has retained a good deal of room to maneuver, although this room will be drastically circumscribed when the British ultimatum runs out in three months. Mr. Malibenny commented that these Commonwealth meetings seem to have a temporary cathartic effect for the Africans but that this effect seems to diminish with each meeting. He thus sees the possibility of more meetings at progressively shorter intervals as Wilson tries to head off African anger.

2. The British have told State that when the ultimatum runs out, they will probably ask for mandatory sanctions on pig iron, chrome, and asbestos exports from Rhodesia and perhaps on tobacco exports as well. They are also thinking of a broader sanctions resolution on FAL imports via Mozambique, but this raises the specter, among others, of an eventual confrontation with South Africa. There was general consensus among State representatives that we could go along with the export sanctions (although some reservations were expressed about tobacco), but there was a good deal of hesitation over FAL sanctions.

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3. Mr. Malibenny was asked what he thought Britain's goals were. He said he doubted that anyone in the British government really believes any more that sanctions will bring down Smith.

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