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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE  
CONTAINS CODEWORD

August 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Information Items

25X1

Smith Agrees on Proposals for Rhodesian Talks: South African Prime Minister Vorster and Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, who met in Pretoria last weekend, have announced that they agreed on proposals for starting the long-delayed negotiations between Smith and black Rhodesian nationalists. They withheld the details of the proposal, however, suggesting they anticipate objections from white politicians in Smith's Rhodesian Front Party or from the leaders of the African National Council.

Smith agreed under neavy pressure from Vorster that the initial meeting take place in a railroad car midway between Rhodesia and Zambia on the bridge spanning the Zambezi River. Zambian President Kaunda's special aide who visited Pretoria last weekend and concurred in the Smith-Vorster proposals, subsequently told black Rhodesian leaders in Zambia that:

- After the Rhodesian government and the black leaders define the basic constitutional issues in the initial session, several joint committees will formulate the particulars of a settlement and then adjourn to Rhodesia to complete the text.
- The Rhodesian government guarantees that all black leaders engaged in negotiations will be free to come and go and that no black nationalists will be arrested as long as negotiations are under way.
- When the drafting committees have completed their work, a final conference will convene in London to conclude a formal settlement.

CIA doubts that either the Rhodesian cabinet or Smith's party will accept the guarantees for the black nationalists. Government spokesmen have been preparing white Rhodesians for an early intensification of the counterinsurgency campaign, and some white politicians have called for the rearrest of some nationalists.