

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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July 3, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Evening Notes

Commonwealth Ceasefire in Rhodesia: A reliable ZAPU official told Embassy Lusaka today that the executive committee has now decided to accept the idea of a commonwealth meeting ceasefire proposed by Ramphal and has so informed Nkomo. They have also informed Mugabe by wire of the action. The embassy believes Kaunda may make a public statement of ZAPU's willingness to declare a truce during the period and call on Muzorewa to follow suit. Whether this will be done before or after Muzorewa sees Prime Minister Thatcher is not clear. (C)

Saudi Oil and Middle East Peace: Embassy Jidda reports that NBC's Garrick Utley, who is making a documentary on Saudi Arabia, had a long session with Foreign Minister Prince Saud on July 1. The embassy understands that he asked Saud what Saudi Arabia's reaction would be if there were a sudden breakthrough on Middle East peace negotiations. Saud replied that Saudi Arabia would pay any price for a real peace. Utley then asked specifically whether Saudi Arabia would increase oil production. Saud reportedly told Utley that in such an event Saudi Arabia would have to consider oil a currency, perhaps the highest form of currency available. (S)

Utley understood from those remarks that Saudi Arabia would be willing to make whatever sacrifice was necessary to provide suitable reward for real peace in the Middle East. If this meant putting strains on Saudi's oil resources, they would nevertheless do it. On the other hand, Utley did not get the sense of any kind of implied threat, i.e., if peace did not come, Saudi Arabia would cut oil production. Utley's documentary will be aired by NBC in September. (S)

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REVIEW ON JULY 3, 2009
CLASSIFIED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES

State Dept. review
completed

NLC Review
Completed.

NSA review
completed

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