

# Political Factors

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**RHODESIA—ZAMBIA** p. 2066

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**Maize Supplies**

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The **Zambian Government** announced on July 10th that **Zambia** was to buy 1.5 m. bags of maize from **Rhodesia** to "alleviate the critical maize situation in the country". **Radio Lusaka** said that the decision followed a detailed submission of **Zambia's** maize problem to the **UN Secretary-General** by **Zambia's** permanent representative to the **UN**, **Mr. Vernon Mwaanga**. The submission referred to **Portuguese** blockading action in **Mozambique** and **Angola** of all categories of **Zambian** imports (p. 2015). To counter this, maximum use had to be made of other routes with a resulted increase in transport costs and an unnecessary loss of foreign exchange. The statement also referred to **wheat** supplies held up at **Beira** for so long as to be unsuitable now for human consumption. It asked members of the **UN Security Council** to take note of **Zambia's** special circumstances.

The statement said that because of acute problems encountered in the flow of **Zambia's** imports at the **Portuguese** control ports, emergency measures were taken to import an additional quantity of maize from **South Africa** and elsewhere. This brought the total figure of maize imports to 2.7 m. bags from the following countries: **South Africa**, 892,400 bags; **United States**, 855,400 bags; **Tanzania** 495,000 bags; **Angola**, 220,000 bags; **El Salvador** 117,000 bags; **Albania** 67,000 bags; and **Malawi** 53,000 bags.

The total purchase price of the imports was just over 18 m. Kwacha, excluding transportation costs, in contrast to the normal cost of less than 11 m. Kwacha, including transportation, for the same quantity. The virtual blockade of **Zambian** imports had been accompanied by an increase in storage and other charges at the ports, he concluded.

(R. Lusaka 10/7)