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**CABINET.**

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**FUTURE OF SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN RHODESIA.**

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*Joint Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

WE desire to bring to the notice of the Cabinet that important questions are likely to arise in the near future affecting Southern and Northern Rhodesia and the relations of both to the territories to the North and to the South of them.

The facts and the considerations involved will be set out in a later memorandum, which is in course of preparation. In the meantime, as our colleagues will have noticed, there have been several Parliamentary Questions and discussions recently dealing with partial aspects of the problem, and we are somewhat apprehensive lest, if these continue, the issues involved may become a matter of party politics in this country.

Our view is that these issues are of such importance to the future of Southern and Eastern Africa that any decision reached should, if possible, have the concurrence of the Leaders of all Parties in this country, so that continuity of policy may be assured. We therefore seek the authority of the Cabinet to inform the Leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Parties that we are now engaged in consideration of the whole problem; that we should like to study it in consultation with them; and that we hope they will feel able to nominate responsible members of their Parties to go into the problem with us as soon as we are in a position—as we hope to be after a few weeks—to put before them all the facts and the relevant considerations as we see them.

(Initialled) J. H. T.  
P.

*Downing Street, December 5, 1930.*