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PA/HO Department of State

E.O. 12958, as amended

April 21, 2005

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Authority NND 969000

By DS NASA Date 3/16/09

INDIVIDUALS

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POL 27-9 BIAFRA - NIGERIA

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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24 Oct 69 04 43z

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy LAGOS PRIORITY

INFO: Amembassy LONDON "

Amembassy ABIDJAN "

STATE: _____

REF : (a) State 176138 (b) State 176139

EXDIS

LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR

ABIDJAN FOR FERGUSON

1. You should convey message paras 2-4 to Enahoro, Extaff, for

Gowon. You should note in so doing that we informed Arikpo of these

steps (reftels) when in Washington and that we gratified by Arikpo's

strong assurances FMG cooperation. (FYI - We not revealing any

details re how we communicating with Biafrans END FYI.) You may

wish use aide memoire with Enahoro. Message is as follows:

2. President wishes convey General Gowon his admiration for his

humane statesmanship in agreeing to inviolable daylight airlift

by ICRC into enclave. USG deeply committed to humanitarian

program and therefore very distressed continued impasse. We wish

see prompt implementation ICRC flights and see question of security

chief Biafran objection remaining. In effort meet this problem

(3)

DRAFTED BY:

AF/SN: WHBrubeck bjr

DRAFTING DATE

10-22-69

TEL. EXT.

21185

APPROVED BY:

The Under Secretary

SR

LEARANCES:

AF - Mr. Newsom

S/S - O:BAF Latin S/PC - Mr. Ruser

CM

U/CF - Amb. Ferguson

White House - Mr. Roger Morris

AM

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TO STATES OF AM
FROM DEPT OF STATE

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ACTION: LAGOS INFO: ABIDJAN, LONDON

President has by appropriate means arranged Biafrans be informed that USG has full confidence in FMG commitment to cooperate ICRC program without any violation for military advantage during relief daylight hours. US associates self with FMG assurances and therefore feels Biafrans have no reasonable basis insist on further guarantees. US also asking Biafran assurance Uli will not be used for arms flights during daylight relief operations. If Biafrans accept daylight flights under these arrangements, USG prepared make public statement at high level expressing confidence in FMG pledge inviolability airlift, gratification FMG statesmanship thus ~~xxxx~~ demonstrated, and therefore agreement of two parties to daylight flights.

3. Biafrans to be asked for yes or no answer. US assurance non-negotiable. If Biafrans still reject, USG will feel free to express publicly USG view of Biafran position.

4. President wishes General Gowon understand we fully appreciative solemn undertaking by FMG in accepting daylight airlift. Our present effort intended solely to remove main issue on which Biafrans have based rejection, thus hopefully opening way to

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ACTION: LAGOS INFO: ABIDJAN, LONDON

actual flights. President instructed you ~~will~~ simply convey General Gowon and FMG full explanation of background and purposes our action, as well as President's recognition of FMG's remarkable humanitarianism in allowing safe passage airlift to other side in civil war.

GP-1.

Biafra

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