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PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

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1970 JAN 14 21 22Z

~~SECRET NOFORN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/~~
BACKGROUND USE ONLY CITE TDCS DB-315/00173-70 (ADVANCE)
COUNTRY: NIGERIA/GABON/IVORY COAST/ FRANCE
DOI: 13 JANUARY 1970
SUBJECT: 1. WHEREABOUTS OF BIAFRAN SECESSIONIST LEADER GENERAL
ODUMEGWO OJUKWO
2. THE EARLY RESPONSE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO
TO THE FALL OF BIAFRA

ACQ:
SOURCE:

1. BIAFRAN SECESSIONIST LEADER GENERAL ODUMEGWO
O J U K W U HAS BEEN STAYING IN A PRIVATE VILLA IN
LIBREVILLE SINCE HIS DEPARTURE FROM BIAFRA.
[REDACTED] TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OJUKWU
SAID THAT HE WAS DEPARTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES
OF HIS GENERAL STAFF AND TO SPARE HIS PEOPLE FROM
EXTERMINATION. CHRISTOPHER O N Y E K W E L U, BIAFRAN
FINANCE MAN IN EUROPE AND BROTHER-IN-LAW OF OJUKWU, WAS GIVEN
A ROUND-TRIP TICKET TO LIBREVILLE ON 13 JANUARY BY THE FRENCH
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS IN
PARIS AND WILL JOIN OJUKWU IN LIBREVILLE ON 14 JANUARY.
C.C. M O J E K U U, BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON, HAS
ALSO DEPARTED BY AIR FOR LIBREVILLE. FRENCH SECRETARY
GENERAL FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS JACQUES F O C C A R T
HAS LEFT YAOUNDE WHERE HE WAS ATTENDING CAMEROON'S
TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS TO MEET WITH
OJUKWU IN LIBREVILLE. BIAFRAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE
N E A N E F O HAS REMAINED IN BIAFRA.

2. ON THE EVENING OF 13 JANUARY 1970 FOCCART'S DEPUTY
JEAN MAURICHEAU - BEAUPRE WENT TO SEE FRENCH
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MICHEL DEBARE. DEBARE
AND MAURICHEAU-BEAUPRE DECIDED TO HAVE THE STOCK OF
FRENCH-SUPPLIED ARMS REMOVED [REDACTED] AND DIVIDED
BETWEEN THE FRENCH BASES AT DOUALA AND ABIDJAN. MAURICHEAU-
BEAUPRE SAID THAT FRANCE HAD SENT \$30,000,000 IN MATERIAL TO
BIAFRA, LENT IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-
BOIGNY \$8,000,000 FOR BIAFRAN OPERATIONS, AND FACES
A DEBT OF CIRCA \$400,000 FOR [REDACTED] SERVICES.

3. THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO PLANS
FOR FRENCH SUPPORT TO BIAFRAN GUERRILLA RESISTANCE. THE
RATIONALE FOR THIS POSITION AS EXPRESSED BY MAURICHEAU-BEAUPRE
TO INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WITH EXECUTING BIAFRAN OPERATIONS
WAS AS FOLLOWS: "FRANCE SUPPORTED BIAFRA BECAUSE OF THE OIL
AND ERAP, BUT NOT THE IBO REVOLUTION. THE SUPPORT WAS
ACTUALLY GIVEN TO A HANDFUL OF BIAFRAN BOURGEOISE IN RETURN
FOR THE OIL. THERE IS NO POPULAR SUPPORT IN BIAFRA FOR A
GUERRILLA WAR NOW. THE REAL IBO MENTALITY IS MUCH FARTHER TO
THE LEFT THAN THAT OF OJUKWU AND EVEN IF WE HAD WON, THERE
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING HIM IN POWER IN THE
FACE OF LEFTIST INFILTRATION."

4. FIELD DISSEN: NONE. [REDACTED]

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