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By SP NAPA Date 3/17/98

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Origin

ACTION: Amembassy LAGOS

Info

INFO: Amembassy LONDON

REF: State 020875

STATE _____

1. On Feb 10 Amachree phoned Palmer to say Arikpo upset that Amachree had not been able see Secretary and asked that he make further effort after Secretary's return from Florida.
2. Meeting between Secretary and Amachree arranged Feb 11. Amachree opened by saying that he satisfied re his earlier conversation with Palmer but that there great uneasiness Lagos re future of US policy and present review. Gowon and Arikpo had therefore attached importance his seeing Secretary as well.
3. Following is uncleared, ~~NOX~~ NOFORN, FYI only, and subject to re-vision. Secretary said that with change of administrations, previous policies continue unless or until decision taken to change them. Indicating that no such decision has been taken, Secretary emphasized that our review is related to question of relief on which we under great public pressure. While some are trying also to press USG to bring about peace settlement, we do not want to get ~~xxxxxx~~ politically involved. Our interest is in feeding people

Drafted by

AF/J Palmer:smf 2/11/69

Tel. Ext.

5374

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

S/S - Robert L. Brown

Clearances:

S - Mr. McHenry

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ACTION:
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people and we regard it of utmost importance FMG do everything possible to facilitate that task.

4. Amachree expressed understanding and satisfaction. As result his visit he well understood depth humanitarian concern and would assure Lagos aware true nature our problem.

5. Amachree also indicated he has had extensive conversations Sen Kennedy's staff and hoped see Senator himself in New York before he (Amachree) departed for Lagos evening 11th. He added that Kennedy staff had told him that Biafran reps had informed Kennedy that Biafra's sovereignty is negotiable. Amachree rejoined that if that is true Biafran position, war can end. He says he has asked that Kennedy's office try arrange meeting between Biafran reps and Amachree with Kennedy present to pin down this point /and has offered to return to U.S. whenever Senator can arrange.

END.

ROGERS

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