

DECLASSIFIED

NND 969000

Authority

By SP NARA Date 3/2/98

OUTGO

INDICATE: ☐ CHARGE TO

Department of State

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Classification

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy LAGOS IMMEDIATE

Info:

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR MATHEWS FROM UNDER SECRETARY

SUBJECT: US-Nigeria Relations

1. Letter from President to Gowon follows septel.
2. In delivering letter you should convey following to him.
3. USG deeply disturbed at posture taken toward US in last few weeks including strident statements made by high-ranking officials of what we regard as friendly government. We have been particularly surprised that FMG has apparently been uninterested in correcting irresponsible statements, such as those on Cross River project, serving to incite public opinion against US.
4. We want to make clear again that our policy toward Nigeria is one of friendship not hostility. As the President said in his earlier letter to General Gowon, we want to continue our friendly cooperation with the FMG. We have, after all, common interests and basic ties of friendship. In present situation our concern is to help Nigeria to prevent other Nigerians from dying, not to intervene in the war. Our policy toward Nigeria has been honest and straightforward. Accusations to the contrary impugn our good faith.

Drafted by:

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and

AF/W:GBSherry:RMMelbourne:emb

6402

classification approved by:

U - Under Secretary

Clearances:

White House - Mr. Morris
U - Mr. Ruser
S/S- Mr. BrandtU/CF - Amb. Ferguson
AF - Amb. Moore~~SECRET~~

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

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5. We expect of the FMG a responsible and dispassionate appreciation of our position just as USG appreciates that of Nigeria. This mutual understanding is the only possible basis for the constructive and friendly relationship we want with Nigeria.

6. We appreciate the role of Nigerian public opinion in FMG consideration of relief arrangements. FMG must realize, however, that should the relief impasse continue much longer the question of possible new USG approaches to the problem will undoubtedly arise. We believe FMG has much to gain in terms of the understanding and support of the international community by being as forthcoming and magnanimous on relief arrangements as its real security requirements make possible.

END

ROGERS

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