

PD 27-9 BIAFRA-NIGERIA
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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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254

PAGE 01 GENEVA 02740 011350Z

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
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USUN NEW YORK 3440

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LIMDIS

SUBJ: NIGERIA: ICRC FLIGHTS

REF: 1. GENEVA 2717
2. GENEVA 2737

1. FOLLOWING IS FINAL TEXT OF ICRC NOTE DATED AUG 1, 1969
ADDRESSED TO FMG (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED):

BEGIN QUOTE: ICRC PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO FMG OF NIGERIA,
AND HAS HONOR TO PROPOSE TO IT THE FOLLOWING.

IN COURSE OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PARTIES TO PRESENT CONFLICT AND ICRC, IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT
AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION BY THE
ICRC OF A DAYLIGHT RELIEF AIRLIFT. DIFFERENCES HAVE APPEARED,
HOWEVER, ON INSPECTION PROCEDURE, AND ON PLACE WHERE SUCH
INSPECTION SHALL BE CARRIED OUT IN ORDER VERIFY NATURE OF CARGO
AND IDENTITY OF PERSONNEL TRANSPORTED BY RELIEF AIRCRAFT.
DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALSO ARISEN ON NATURE OF GUARANTEE ASSURING
SECURITY OF OPERATION.

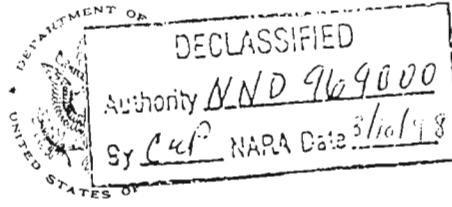
MOVED BY DEEPEST CONCERN FOR PLIGHT OF INNOCENT CIVILIAN VICTIMS

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27

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E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005



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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02740 011350Z

OF CONFLICT, ICRC HAS DRAFTED FOLLOWING PRACTICABLE PLAN WHICH IT NOW SUBMITS TO APPROVAL OF PARTIES:

1. THAT AN AIR CORRIDOR RESERVED TO THE ICRC MERCY FLIGHTS SHALL BE OPENED ACROSS NIGERIAN IAR SPACE, INTO BIAFRA.
2. THAT THE SAFEGUARD AND PROTECTION AFFORDED BY THE DISTINCTIVE EMBLEM OF RED CROSS SHALL BE RECOGNIZED AND FORMALLY CONFIRMED BY PARTIES TO CONFLICT.
3. THAT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT SHALL PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO FACILITATE MERCY FLIGHTS AND REFRAIN FROM ANY INTERVENTION, EITHER IN AIR OR ON GROUND, WITHIN LIMITS OF AIR CORRIDOR, DURING TIME RESERVED FOR ICRC AIRLIFT.

WITH VIEW TO COOPERATING FULLY WITH ALL AUTHORITIES, ICRC SHALL:

- A) SUBMIT TO PARTIES TO CONFLICT COMPLETE SCHEDULES OF FLIGHTS, SHOWING INTER ALIA ESTIMATED TIMES OF ARRIVALS OVER CHECKPOINTS;
- B) GIVE EVERY FACILITY TO A CONTROLLING COMMISSION SO THAT IT MAY VERIFY ON ICRC BASES AT COTONOU AND SANTA ISABEL NATURE OF RELIEF AND IDENTITY OF PERSONNEL ABOARD AIRCRAFT, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR MERCY FLIGHTS, AND ON RETURN.

OBSERVERS WILL BOARD ICRC RELIEF AIRCRAFT AND ACCOMPANY MERCY FLIGHTS, IF SO REQUESTED BY EITHER OR BOTH PARTIES TO CONFLICT.

ICRC AVAILS ITSELF OF OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO FMG OF NIGERIA THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE

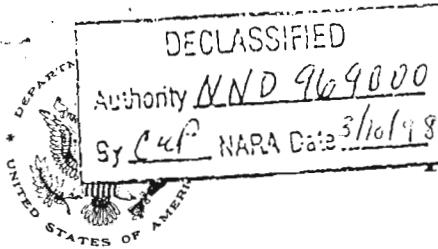
COMMENT: MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE APPEARS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ICRC BASES AT COTONOU AND SANTA ISABEL, I.E. INSPECTION/INCEPTION FLIGHTS FROM OUTSIDE FMG TERRITORY.

2. AT AMBASSADOR FERGUSON'S DIRECTION, GUTMAN GAVE BRIEF ORAL RESUME TO KOLO AND HOLLIST WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED NOTE. KOLO MADE VERY FEW COMMENTS BUT SEEMED TO READ SIGNIFICANCE INTO FACT THAT INSPECTORS/OBSERVERS WOULD BE FURNISHED BY GOVERNMENTS IDENTIFIED WITH LUNS GROUP. HE ALSO NOTED POINT THAT CHURCH GROUPS AND UN ORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT REPRESENTED AT LAST NIGHT'S MEETING.

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21

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E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005



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TELEGRAM

PAGE 03 GENEVA 02740 011350Z

3. KOLO TOLD GUTMAN THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEND JOINT MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. HE GAVE NO REASONS. FMG THUS WILL BE REPRESENTED ONLY BY HOLLIST WHO DID NOT SEEM LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MEETING.

4. LIMDIS REFERS TO PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3. TEXT NOTE IS LOU UNTIL ITS RELEASE BY ICRC.
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April 21, 2005
21