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SUBJECT : Policy Planning Paper

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SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

Attached are three copies of the Policy Planning Paper for Nigeria, as approved by the members of the NSC Interdepartmental Group for Africa.

The paper constitutes an official statement of US policy towards Nigeria and should be used as a guideline by all elements of the Embassy in the preparation of policy statements, action plans and future budgetary projections.

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NIGERIA: Policy Planning Paper

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Approved by the NSC Interdepartmental Group for Africa

June 1971

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NIGERIA: Policy Planning Paper

A. U.S. Interests in Nigeria

1. Nigeria's population of 60 million, its economic vitality and potential, and its military strength (250,000 men) make it one of the major centers of influence and power on the African continent.

2. U.S. investments in Nigerian oil (production and marketing) have increased to \$600 million recently. The outlook is for further expansion. Nigeria also is a supplemental and back-up source of supply for petroleum, particularly for Europe.

3. There is a growing mutual awareness between the black community in the United States and in Nigeria and a growing interest in each other's problems.

4. As the world's ninth most populous country, Nigeria holds promise as a market for U.S. exports.

B. U.S. Objectives Over the Next Five Years

1. To put our bilateral relations with Nigerian leadership, both civilian and military, on a firmer basis and permitting a more effective dialogue.

2. To encourage Nigerian leadership to continue their moderate outlook.

3. To encourage economic growth and the development of political structures which can promote stability and maintain unity within present boundaries.

4. To increase U.S. access to resources and markets.

5. To bring Nigeria's economic potential to bear on African regional development efforts.

C. Nigeria's Objectives Vis-a-Vis the United States

To develop access to U.S. civilian and military resources, technology, training and development funds, but not at the expense of accepting significant U.S. influence either on Nigerian policy or on Nigerian individuals.

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2. To gain U.S. support for Nigeria's economic and diplomatic objectives, particularly the end to white rule in Africa.

3. To further reduce the "Biafran" propaganda apparatus and other anti-Nigerian voices in the United States.

D. Recommended Courses of Action

1. Concentrate resources available through the AID program on Nigeria's most critical reconstruction and development needs as expressed in the new Four Year Plan and continue to stress rapid implementation of prior commitments (See Annex D). Specifically:

(a) Provision of reconstruction assistance through program lending in FY 1971 and, assuming a continuing consideration of additional capital assistance, through either program or sector lending in FY 1972. Support to the police in FY 1971 or FY 1972 for construction of a new Police College.

(b) Continuation of technical assistance, emphasizing agriculture, education, and other productive sectors where our capabilities and interests coincide with the wishes of the GON.

(c) Timely execution of existing capital projects and early completion of relief and rehabilitation activities.

(d) Development, preferably on a multi-lateral basis, of regional assistance programs which promote closer economic ties between Nigeria and its neighbors, such as the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

2. Maintain cultural and educational exchanges, both official and private, including contacts between distinguished Nigerians in all official and private fields with their American counterparts.

3. Provide civic action-oriented military training under MAP. Supplement MAP with sales of conventional military training courses and, if requested, of equipment.

4. Maintain police training programs.

5. Encourage contacts between U.S. and Nigerian trade unions.

6. Keep before Nigerian leaders, policymakers, and men of influence a clear picture of U.S. progress, improvements,

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and policy in the field of race relations. With regard to southern Africa problems, make clear the distinctions that exist between U.S. interests and policy toward southern Africa and those of some of our allies.

7. Encourage Nigeria to maintain a favorable climate for foreign investment.

8. Continue to bring trade and investment opportunities to the attention of American businessmen, assure that American business is not discriminated against, and acquaint Nigerians with American products. The Export-Import Bank should maintain the flexibility necessary to enable U.S. firms to meet a high degree of competition.

9. Continue stressing to Nigerians the benefits of generalized tariff preferences. If Nigeria renews overtures to associate with the EEC, try to assure that the agreement does not set up reverse preferences or further complicate the emergence of a system of generalized preferences.

10. Discourage the activities of residual pro-Biafran groups in the United States.

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