

PREM 19/2370

PART 1

MT

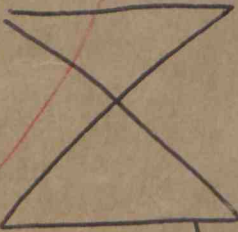
Confidential Filing

Possible invitation to President Shagari to visit Britain.

Visits to Britain by President Babangida

NIGERIA

April 1980

| Referred to  | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
|--|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| <del>16.4.80.</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>12.12.80</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>12.1.81.</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>5.2.81</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>18.2.81.</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| 5-3-81   |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>24.3.81</del>   |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>5.4.81</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>27.7.88</del>   |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>3.8.88</del>  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| <del>10.8.88</del>   |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
| 8.12.81  |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |
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| CLOSED   |      |             |      |             |      |             |      |

PREM 19/2370

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

| Reference                               | Date       |
|---|------------|
| CC(81) 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting, item 2 | 19/03/1981 |
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The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate **CAB** (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed J. Gray

Date 14/3/2016

**PREM Records Team**

PART 1 ends:-

PM to Pres. Babangida 8.12.88  
7187/88

PART 2 begins:-

Lt Col GEORGE WEST to PM 8.3.89  
Buckingham Palace

SUBJECT

cc MASTER

O/S

FILE

ShwBSH

filed in NIGERIA: Visit to Britain  
by Pres. Babangida  
Apr 1988



afco

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 December 1988

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T.187/88

Dear Mr. President-

I am delighted that you and Mrs. Babangida have accepted The Queen's invitation to pay a State visit to Britain next May. I recall with great pleasure my own visit to Nigeria in January.

I have been following closely your efforts to rebuild Nigeria's economy and very much welcome your determination to seek an agreement with the IMF. I understand from Nigel Lawson, who saw Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji in London last week, that you have decided to take further measures to strengthen the programme. This should help us to persuade others to support it.

I do not underestimate the political courage needed or the difficulties which your quest for a self-reliant economy creates. For our part, we have been working very hard behind the scenes. As you know, we are taking the lead in putting together a package of financial assistance on the assumption that a satisfactory IMF programme is agreed. Our own contribution to such a joint effort would be a grant of \$100 million in 1989.

You must be the judge of what is feasible in Nigerian political terms. But I am sure you will understand that our success in putting together an adequate package may need a

SW

demonstration on your part that you are willing to draw on all the funds available to you.

I hope that we can keep in touch on developments in the weeks ahead.

*With warm regards,*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Nagendra Kumar*

---

His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, CFR

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file



be: dm  
PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

10 August 1988

Dear Mr.

BVM

Thank you for your letter of 9 August about the dates for the State Visit of President Babangida. The proposed dates of 9 - 12 May are acceptable to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,  
Charles Powell

Charles Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

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*gpc*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 August 1988

*Yes not*  
*Dear Charles,*  
*+ clear*

*Prime Minister'*  
*Context with these dates. The*  
*Scottish Conference is on Fri 12 May ?*  
*POB*  
*9/8*

In your letter of 19 January you recorded that the Nigerian High Commissioner had told you that President Babangida was thinking in terms of a visit in April/May next year.

As you will be aware the recent meeting of the Royal Visits Committee endorsed the Prime Minister's recommendation that the Nigerian President be invited to pay a State Visit in the spring next year. As President Babangida is a practising Muslim a visit during Ramadan (approx 7 April - 7 May 1989) is ruled out. We understand from the Palace that the Household Troops required to support a State Visit cannot be made available before 9 April because they are already committed to a very full exercise programme. Buckingham Palace have informed us that The Queen will be prepared to invite President Babangida during the period 9 - 12 May. The Foreign Secretary recommends that we should now proceed with an invitation to President Babangida to pay a State Visit for this period.

Brian Barder, our new High Commissioner in Lagos, is to present his credentials to President Babangida on 12 August. It would be helpful if he were able to sound Nigerian officials about the dates of 9 - 12 May, assuming they are acceptable to the Prime Minister, before he is received by the President.

*Lowder*

*L Parker*

(L Parker)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/No 10 Downing Street



NIGERIA: Relations Pt 2

SECRET

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CP.

Do you want to feed this  
pt. into F.C.O.  
planning ?  
W.C.O.  
10.8

MR WICKS

Mr Powell

RE. PRESIDENT BABANGIDA'S STATE VISIT

As you explained to Bill Heseltine, these dates are difficult but perhaps I should point out that if the State Visit took place on the weekend beginning 22 May the Prime Minister would not be able to host the lunch here on Wednesday 24 May as that is the day of the Womens' Conference. She also has to launch the European Elections Manifesto on the Monday night.

would we have to have a lunch on another day?

Tessa

MRS. TESSA GAISMAN

3 August 1988

010  
c.c. Nigel Wicks, Esq., CBE. ✓  
Lt. Col. George West, CVO.  
Brigadier Clive Robertson

reg  
3/1  
J

CONFIDENTIAL

2nd August, 1988.

WILL ROBERTSON IF ROBERTSON

We have spoken once or twice on the telephone about your letter of 22nd July concerning dates for President Babangida's State Visit next year. It is a pity that Ramadan makes it impossible to get him here in April - contrary to what we were told at the Royal Visits Committee - since that is undoubtedly a more convenient month for a State Visit than May. If we have to go forward into May, it reduces uncomfortably the time between spring and summer State Visits for the planning and preparation in the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

If the army requirement for April, rather than the March date, is to continue, I think we must be more inclined to find a non-Muslim candidate for the spring visit, in order not to put too much of a strain on the resources of the Lord Chamberlain's Office too close together. The difficulty is compounded in 1989 by the return Tercentenary visit of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, the dates for which have been set at 28th - 30th June.

To meet the requirement of the Lord Chamberlain's Office for as long as possible a gap between the two visits, The Queen would be prepared to have President Babangida from 9th - 12th May. If those dates were convenient to No. 10 and to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, there is no reason why the President's Office should not now be sounded.

SIR WILLIAM HESELTINE

David L. Smallman, Esq.

MR. POWELL

The earlier dates for  
CHOGM are better for the  
Prime Minister. CAD.

Two points which arose in a discussion with Bill Heseltine today.

On President Babangida's State Visit next year, there is a problem about the dates. The President is a Muslim. So Ramadan precludes a State Visit in April. Army exercises - in Kenya - preclude a visit in late March. The dates being considered are therefore in May (with the Visit beginning on 8 May or 22 May). I explained to Bill that these dates could be inconvenient for the Prime Minister since there were certain events likely to celebrate her 10 years as Prime Minister next May. You will no doubt want to consider this when the Foreign Office put dates for the State Visit to you. Mrs. Gaisman will want to bear possibilities in mind here.

There is, apparently, some discussion about the dates for the next CHOGM. Bill said that the later date in October 1989 was more convenient to The Queen than the earlier dates, though he accepted that was clearly not a decisive factor.

N. L. W.

N. L. WICKS  
27 July 1988

cc: Mrs. Gaisman

Subject on Anglo-Nigeria Relations  
Nigeria August 1979

cc Master  
& Ops



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

10 DOWNING STREET

SERIAL No. J 1250/81

DSG

FCO

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 September 1981

Dear Mr. President,

As you know, I attach great importance to relations between Britain and Nigeria. I am glad to see that they are developing well, and I think it most important that we stay closely in touch and make use also of all other opportunities for contact. I should therefore like to use the occasion of the visit to Nigeria of the Minister of Housing, Mr. John Stanley, M.P., to convey to you my personal greetings and to recall the pleasure which we all derived from your visit to the United Kingdom in March.

We have been very conscious, as a result of your own visit and that of Dr. Ekwueme, for the Royal Wedding, that our Nigerian friends would welcome greater activity in Nigeria by British firms. Part of the reason for Mr. Stanley's visit is to give practical encouragement to British firms to make a particular effort to develop their activities, investment and involvement in Nigeria. Mr. Parkinson, the Minister for Trade, will also be visiting Lagos in November as head of an important delegation of top British businessmen.

I myself am taking a keen personal interest in UK involvement in major projects abroad and keep a close watch on British overseas performance. I much appreciate the friendly interest which you, Mr. President, your Vice-President and members of your Government continue to take in encouraging Britain to keep up on the economic and commercial level the admirable relations which already exist between us on the political and other planes. We are always ready to seek fresh opportunities for collaboration.

/ But we are

But we are anxious to do more - particularly in connection with the great future of Nigeria, symbolised by developments at Abuja. As evidence of this, we stand ready to make available a guaranteed line of export credit of £300 million to cover project business in Abuja. Alternatively, we are willing to consider an expert credit facility of a similar amount in connection with Taylor Woodrow's bid for your new National Assembly building at Abuja should this be required. Mr. Stanley is looking forward to discussing these matters with your colleagues in Lagos, and I look forward to hearing from him on his return.

On more general matters, I know that the situation on Namibia is causing you, as it is us, much concern. The recent South African incursion into Angola, which my Government wholly deplored, has reinforced the need for a negotiated settlement as soon as possible. I want to take this opportunity to assure you that we and the rest of the Five are pursuing our efforts unstintingly to bring this about. Lord Carrington will be meeting with his colleagues in the Five in New York on 24 September, to carry matters forward. We shall keep you closely informed of our thinking on all this.

I very much look forward to seeing you in Melbourne and to continuing our dialogue there. The agenda for that meeting covers much important ground and I know that Nigeria will be making a vital contribution to the success of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

MT

His Excellency Alhaji Shehu Shagari.



BOX 2



# Hughes International



*Nigeria*

GH/smb

24th March 1981  
*ms*

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1.

*ms*

*Dear Prime Minister*

I am writing to say how very much I appreciate your and Mr. Thatcher's hospitality at 10 Downing Street last week in honour of President Shagari.

As a result I spent just over half an hour tete-a-tete with President Shagari and was able to make substantial progress on an existing cattle project and also launch a new project worth about £100 million.

Mr. Thatcher's support at lunch with Minister Dikko was invaluable in this respect.

Wouldn't it be marvellous if only officials at the Foreign Office and Department of Trade would learn from your example in these matters?

Assuring you of my continued support.

With kindest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

*George Hughes*

George Hughes,  
Chairman.

HUGHES INTERNATIONAL Securities Limited

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Adelaide House  
London Bridge  
EC4R 9HA  
Reg'd Office  
972953 England

~~Michael~~

Wink!

(This file will be filed up shortly!) <sup>And</sup>

On 4<sup>th</sup> February you wrote to the FCO about the possible presentation of a Hereford Bull to President Shagari. (Flag A).

The FCO replied on 18/2/81 (FLAG B) and 5/3/81 (FLAG C) reporting little progress.

They now state that our High Commission have met with no success and so they are content for the idea to rest unless the



Nigerian's show some interest,

Content?

Will

24/3/81



Lfo

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 March 1981

Your Excellency,

Denis and I very much enjoyed yesterday evening.

It was a marvellous occasion and we both send you our sincere thanks for your kind hospitality.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Shuaib Uthman Yolah. —

ds



10 DOWNING STREET

*Ani Stephens :*      *Hadn't thought*

MR ALEXANDER

*of doing so!*

*Ani*

Will you be doing the  
thank you letter to the  
Nigerians for last night?

*AS.*

20 March 1981



CC: Trade  
DES  
HO  
CO

BK

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 March 1981

Meeting with President Shagari

I enclose the record of the talks in plenary session between the Prime Minister and President Shagari which took place here on Wednesday 18 March.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure to Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade), Peter Shaw (Department of Education and Science), John Halliday (Home Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

R

(1)



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

The FCO have pursued this idea independently. If you remain unbuffered about sending a message yourself (which I suspect is the only way of ensuring it will be read in the White House) would you agree

20 March 1981

Dear Michael, that Lord Carrington should write something to Mr Haig?  
(a) Agree text attached. If not (b) Agree that Carrington may write?

Discussions with the Nigerian President on Southern Africa

Proposed Message to President Reagan

Phd

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary read with particular interest the record of the Prime Minister's discussion with President Shagari on 18 March about Southern African problems. Lord Carrington thinks that many of the points made both by the Prime Minister and by President Shagari would be of value to the Americans as they work out their Southern African policies. The best way to ensure that they draw the right conclusions at the highest level might be for the Prime Minister to send a short, friendly and informative message to President Reagan: if, however, the Prime Minister thought this was pitching it too high, Lord Carrington would propose to send a suitably amended message to Mr Haig. This would provide a useful peg on which to hang a discreet expression of hope that the Americans will not delay too much before initiating their promised consultations with the Africans and others, since this offers virtually the only hope of heading off a difficult debate in the Security Council next month and the necessity for Western vetoes of demands for sanctions. It would also offer an opportunity to make it clear to the Americans that we are not pressing them to continue the policies of the Carter Administration or even necessarily to support the UN plan for Namibia.

I enclose a draft message accordingly, in the form of a telegram to Washington. The top copy will be lodged with the Resident Clerk over the weekend.

No - in view of the recent developments - leave well alone

yours ever  
Roderic Lyne

(RM J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

P.A. has agreed that message should go from FCS to Haig.  
Respalced -  
L.A. Phd, 24/3

DRAFT MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON: NIGERIA

Amendments

Paragraph 1, line 1 insert "myself" instead of Prime Minister

Line 2 insert Alexander Haig instead of President.

Line 3 and 4 delete "to the Whitehouse".

Line 6 begins "Dear Al".

Paragraph 2, lines 1-4. Insert the following: "I was glad to hear that the Nigerian Foreign Minister had accepted your invitation to Washington for talks at the end of this week. As you know, President Shagari has just been in London on a State Visit. I thought you would be interested in hearing of the line he is taking before you meet Professor Audu. Both the President and Professor Audu..."

Pick up from line 5 which begins "Audu...".

Take in lines 6 and 7.

Delete last sentence of page 1 (optional deletion).

Page 2

Begins: "Our impression from our talks and from my own recent visit to Lagos is that..." Then take in existing page 2 from top, - paragraphs 1 and 2.

Paragraph 3 now begins: "We told Shagari and Audu that from our own..."

Next line insert "we were" instead of "I was".

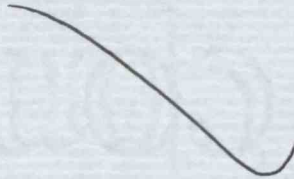
Last sentence on that page: "We expressed our concern..."

Page 3

"Both Margaret Thatcher and I thought that...".

Suggest deletion in first paragraph of last two sentences from "I believe" to the end of the para. In their place put the following: "Audu himself admitted that there could be virtue in delaying the Security Council debate if the moderate Africans could find a respectable reason for urging this course. Both in Lagos and in London I have strongly encouraged him in this attitude, and I hope that in Washington you and your people may be able, if you agree, to take that process a decisive step further".

Change signature at bottom.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 March 1981

*Lyne*

*Dear Michael,*

Nigeria

We have just learnt that the Emir of Katsina, a prominent and respected Northerner and friend of President Shagari, died yesterday in Nigeria. I attach his Personality Note.

The Prime Minister may wish to offer condolences when she sees the President this evening.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bill Heseltine at Buckingham Palace, to whom I have mentioned the Emir's demise.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St



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~~Michael Alexander Esq~~

Type i final form

No. 10.

kmjL  
19/3

TALKS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT SHAGARI: PLENARY SESSION

1. Attached below is the draft record (plus a spare) of the plenary session of the talks held at No 10 Downing Street yesterday, for clearance with No 10. (Presumably, they should follow the record of the tête-à-tête which Mr Alexander has done.)

Christopher MacRae.

A C D S MacRae  
West African Department

19 March 1981

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RECORD OF OFFICIAL TALKS HELD AT NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH, AT 15.15.

Present

|   |   |
|---|---|
| The Rt Hon<br>Margaret Thatcher MP        | HE Alhaji Shehu Shagari   |
| The Rt Hon<br>the Lord Carrington KCMG MC | Professor I S Audu<br>Minister of External Affairs                    |
| The Rt Hon John Biffen MP                 | Alhaji Umaru Dikko<br>Minister of Transport                           |
| Sir Michael Palliser GCMG                 | Alhaji Shehu Musa<br>Secretary to the Government<br>of the Federation |
| Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG OBE                 |   |
| Mr Derek Day CMG                          | Alhaji S U Yolah<br>High Commissioner for Nigeria                     |
| Mr M O. B Alexander                       | Dr Chuba Okadigbo<br>Special Adviser on Political<br>Affairs          |
| Mr Christopher MacRae                     | Chief Olu Adebajo<br>Special Adviser on Information                   |
|   | Alhaji Y W Sada<br>State Chief of Protocol                            |
|   | Mr J D Sokoya<br>Director Europe, MEA                                 |
|   | Mr B A Bur<br>Permanent Secretary, Political,<br>MEA                  |
|   | Alhaji M L Rafindadi<br>Director, MEA                                 |

1. (The plenary session started without <sup>the Prime Minister and</sup> President Shagari, ~~and the Prime Minister~~, who were holding tête-à-tête talks elsewhere - see above).

2. Alhaji Yolah said that he thought that the lack of a Consular Agreement between Britain and Nigeria seemed to leave certain gaps which occasionally the law enforcement agencies seemed to interpret irrationally eg by using excessive /powers.

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powers. The sort of problem which had sometimes arisen might be avoided if procedures were streamlined by means of a two-way Consular Agreement. Lord Carrington said that his Department would be glad to look at this. Only two cases concerning Nigerians had reached his attention: what had happened seemed deplorable and he regretted this. But he knew of no other problems and hoped that the High Commission would bring to our attention at once any cases where there seemed to have been discrimination. As for immigration difficulties concerning Nigerians, our record was not at all bad. Alhaji Yolah raised one specific problem. This concerned notification to the Nigerian High Commission of Nigerians who had been arrested or imprisoned but who did not want the High Commission to know this. ~~In~~ <sup>made it</sup> ~~Such cases~~ <sup>became</sup> difficult for the High Commission to protect their citizens adequately and left it open to criticism. He would like to see a system introduced whereby the High Commission was automatically informed about all Nigerians arrested or imprisoned, whether the latter wanted it or not. Professor Audu added that some Nigerians of good social standing might not wish their plight to be known: in such cases, the Nigerian High Commission might be told on a confidential basis only. Lord Carrington suggested that the High Commission discuss this with FCO officials to find a solution which would make things easier for the Nigerian authorities, while still respecting the rights and wishes of individuals. He considered it important to have no misunderstandings on this sort of problem, especially in view of the considerable (but often misplaced) Nigerian press interest.

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3. Alhaji Yolah also asked whether the process could not be speeded up whereby Nigerians who had been arrested were brought to trial. They were often held in custody for a long period while the charges against them were formulated. Moreover, those depending on State Legal Aid could not get speedy service from their solicitors. Mr Day commented that while delays no doubt sometimes occurred, this was equally true of UK citizens; there was no discrimination against Nigerians. Other countries (including, no doubt, Nigeria) faced similar problems of a backlog of cases waiting to be tried. It was agreed that the Nigerian High Commission and FCO officials would <sup>together</sup> look into this problem and see how best it could be tackled.

4. Mr Biffen explained the changes which had flowed from the 1979 Banking Act. There was no question of a slur on the standing of the three Nigerian banks represented in London: they had merely not yet been able to demonstrate that they were operating to the standards necessary for them to be put in the first category of banks. In two cases, this was because of past losses under previous owners; the third bank had only recently established itself in London. However, their category should be seen as different rather than lower. Professor Audu had the impression nevertheless that these banks had been downgraded, in the sense that they could now not carry out certain operations which they could before the Act was introduced; and Alhaji Yolah remarked that they had been given too little time to adapt themselves to the new changes required. It was left that, if possible, a meeting would be arranged with the Governor of the Bank of England to continue this discussion.

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4. Turning to trade, Mr Biffen said that he had been impressed by what the President had said in his speech last night. Realistically, however, it was difficult for Britain ~~greatly~~ to increase her imports of Nigeria's non-oil products, ~~very much~~. But the British private sector was free to invest abroad, now that exchange controls had been lifted; and he hoped that suitable opportunities would be identified in Nigeria, a process in which the recent exchange of high-level visits would have a useful effect. Lord Carrington referred to the recent meeting he had held of some 40 businessmen following his visit to Lagos. He had detected considerable new interest in the prospects in Nigeria. The President would have the opportunity of addressing 400 British businessmen later this week. He thought that there might possibly be scope for importing more of Nigeria's traditional products - ~~if~~ <sup>but</sup> only <sup>if</sup> more could be produced. Mr Biffen agreed that there seemed to be interesting possibilities in the agricultural sector as well as various other parts of the economy, for joint ventures.

5. (At this point, the Prime Minister and President Shagari joined the plenary session, ~~after their tête à tête~~ ~~tête~~.)

6. The Prime Minister explained that she and the President had been able to discuss African problems, concentrating especially on Namibia. It seemed clear that our objectives were the same; the question was how best to get there. Their discussion had been most valuable. They had both been disappointed about the breakdown of the PIM

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/in

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in Geneva which seemed to have been caused partly by the South Africans' decision to await the views of the new United States administration, which still had to define its policy in at least four major areas of foreign policy, of which Southern Africa was one.

7. President Shagari and Professor Audu set out the Nigerian position over the possible enlargement of the UN Security Council. They felt that the developing world was not adequately represented in the present 15-member council and hoped for three extra permanent seats (for Latin America, Africa and Asia) besides some extra rotating places. ~~There was a Professor Audu referred to the growing frustration among certain~~ large third-world countries which were essentially moderate and which might help in the process of conciliation, such as Brazil, Nigeria and India. Their presence <sup>in the UNSC</sup> might well outweigh ~~the dangers to which Lord Carrington referred.~~ <sup>of enlargement.</sup> Lord Carrington said that while he understood the logic of ~~the~~ <sup>position,</sup> what Nigerian ~~was asking,~~ he could see a serious practical difficulty: even if it were possible to reach agreement on the composition of a larger council, the balance would change in such a way that the use of the veto would become far more common. This might cause the work of the Security Council to come virtually to a halt: the new arrangement would ensure a two-thirds majority over a number of highly sensitive issues; and this would in turn inevitably cause certain Permanent Members to use their blocking power.

Sir Michael Palliser added that there would in any case be <sup>grave</sup> difficulties over how to choose the extra Permanent Members. Nigeria would clearly <sup>be in</sup> ~~have~~ a strong position in the case of Africa; but it was by no means certain that India would be

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/uncontested

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uncontested in the Asian context, where Japan had a powerful claim; nor was Brazil a certain choice for Latin America. Sir M Brown suggested that the aims of Nigeria might surely be achieved within the existing numbers for the Security Council, where it seemed reasonable to see certain larger countries represented on a permanent basis.

8. The Prime Minister turned next to the forthcoming Mexico Economic Summit and asked whether the President wished to discuss this beforehand. President Shagari replied that he did not expect any dramatic breakthrough, but hoped that at least it would be possible to break the deadlock in the various discussions between North and South. Professor Audu added that Nigeria did not view the Mexico Summit as a substitute for the UN global round, but rather a way of trying to define the middle ground between <sup>the two sides</sup> ~~North and South~~.

~~9. President Shagari asked about bilateral questions. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between certain members of his delegation and the Governor of the Bank of England, to discuss the status of Nigerian banks in London.~~

9, On the increased fees for overseas students, President Shagari explained that he had received many protests in Nigeria. He was particularly concerned about the position of private students. It seemed odd that the new increases did not fall equally on students from the rich EC countries. There also seemed to be particular difficulties for Nigerians who had already started their courses in Britain. The Prime Minister replied that those students who had already started their courses before last autumn were not affected; the new rates applied only to new students. If <sup>UK</sup> ~~over~~ courses seemed

/more

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more expensive than those of other countries, it had to be remembered that our universities had the best teacher/student ratio in the world (1 to 9) and were thus able to offer shorter courses to higher standards. Lord Carrington added that he had discussed this subject during his visit to Lagos in February. The problem was that Britain had a very large number of overseas students (some 67,000); and subsidizing them had been costing us more money than we could afford at present. With our EC partners, we were bound to reciprocity ~~of treatment~~ by the Treaty of Rome, anomalous as this might seem. However, the Government was trying to meet the problem by allocating a certain amount of aid money to alleviate the difficulties of the poorer countries sending students to Britain. It was not, of course, merely Nigeria that faced problems over this; he <sup>had</sup> received complaints from countries as distant as Hong Kong. President Shagari felt nevertheless that Britain would lose from these changes in the long run. We would surely not wish Nigerian students to go for higher education to other foreign countries abroad, ~~some of~~ which we did not approve. The Prime Minister replied that we would see if any special arrangements could be made for Nigeria, though she was not optimistic. Where there were particular hardships, it would be helpful if names and ~~the~~ <sup>of Nigerians</sup> numbers on each course could be forwarded to the British authorities so that individual cases could be examined.

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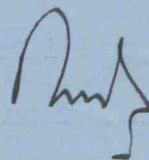
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10. President Shagari raised the question of Zimbabwe. He congratulated the British Government warmly on its *great* achievement in bringing Zimbabwe to independence; but he wondered in the present stage of nation-building whether Britain was giving enough aid to keep the new state on its feet. Lord Carrington said that by now we had given over £100m in aid to Zimbabwe. We were hoping to attract more funds from other countries at the Donors Conference which would start at the weekend. In particular, he hoped that the United States might commit themselves to further aid; increased help from the European Development Fund was also in the offing. Would Nigeria itself be giving more? And could they help persuade the oil-producing Arab countries, who had generally <sup>done</sup>/rather little to help so far, to do better? The Prime Minister added that at a time when her Government was under severe attack in Parliament for not cutting down enough on expenditure, she thought that Britain had done remarkably well in helping Zimbabwe.

11. The meeting finished at 1615.



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SUBJECT

RECORD OF OFFICIAL TALKS HELD AT 10 DOWNING STREET BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH AT 1515

Present:

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Prime Minister                     | HE Alhaji Shehu Shagari  |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary | Professor I S Audu<br>Minister of External Affairs                 |
| Secretary of State for Trade       | Alhaji Umaru Dikko<br>Minister of Transport                        |
| Sir Michael Palliser GCMG          | Alhaji Shehu Musa<br>Secretary to the Government of the Federation |
| Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG OBE          |  |
| Mr Derek Day CMG                   | Alhaji S U Yolah<br>High Commissioner for Nigeria                  |
| Mr M O'D B Alexander               |  |
| Mr Christopher MacRae              | Dr Chuba Okadigbo<br>Special Adviser on Political Affairs          |
|                                    | Chief Olu Adebajo<br>Special Adviser on Information                |
|                                    | Alhaji Y W Sada<br>State Chief of Protocol                         |
|                                    | Mr J D Sokoya<br>Director Europe, MEA                              |
|                                    | Mr B A Bur<br>Permanent Secretary, Political, MEA                  |
|                                    | Alhaji M L Rafindadi<br>Director, MEA                              |

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(The plenary session started without the Prime Minister and President Shagari, who were holding tete-a-tete talks.)

Alhaji Yolah said that he thought that the lack of a Consular Agreement between Britain and Nigeria seemed to leave certain gaps which occasionally the law enforcement agencies seemed to interpret irrationally eg by using excessive powers. The sort of problem which had sometimes arisen might be avoided if procedures were streamlined by means of a two-way Consular Agreement. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that his Department would be glad to look at this. Only two cases concerning Nigerians had reached his attention: what had happened seemed deplorable and he

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regretted this. But he knew of no other problems and hoped that the High Commission would bring to our attention at once any cases where there seemed to have been discrimination. As for immigration difficulties concerning Nigerians, our record was not at all bad. Alhaji Yolah raised one specific problem. This concerned notification to the Nigerian High Commission of Nigerians who had been arrested or imprisoned but who did not want the High Commission to know this. Such cases made it difficult for the High Commission to protect their citizens adequately and left it open to criticism. He would like to see a system introduced whereby the High Commission was automatically informed about all Nigerians arrested or imprisoned, whether the latter wanted it or not. Professor Audu added that some Nigerians of good social standing might not wish their plight to be known: in such cases, the Nigerian High Commission might be told on a confidential basis only. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary suggested that the High Commission discuss this with FCO officials to find a solution which would make things easier for the Nigerian authorities, while still respecting the rights and wishes of individuals. He considered it important to have no misunderstandings on this sort of problem, especially in view of the considerable (but often misplaced) Nigerian press interest.

Alhaji Yolah also asked whether the process could not be speeded up whereby Nigerians who had been arrested were brought to trial. They were often held in custody for a long period while the charges against them were formulated. Moreover, those depending on State Legal Aid could not get speedy service from their solicitors. Mr. Day commented that while delays no doubt sometimes occurred, this was equally true of UK citizens: there was no discrimination against Nigerians. Other countries (including, no doubt, Nigeria) faced similar problems of a backlog of cases waiting to be tried. It was agreed that the Nigerian High Commission and FCO officials would together look into this problem and see how best it could be tackled.

The Secretary of State for Trade explained the changes which had flowed from the 1979 Banking Act. There was no question of a slur on the standing of the three Nigerian banks represented in London:

CONFIDENTIAL

/they

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they had merely not yet been able to demonstrate that they were operating to the standards necessary for them to be put in the first category of banks. In two cases, this was because of past losses under previous owners; the third bank had only recently established itself in London. However, their category should be seen as different rather than lower. Professor Audu had the impression nevertheless that these banks had been downgraded, in the sense that they could now not carry out certain operations which they could before the Act was introduced; and Alhaji Yolah remarked that they had been given too little time to adapt themselves to the new changes required. It was left that, if possible, a meeting would be arranged with the Governor of the Bank of England to continue this discussion.

Turning to trade, the Secretary of State for Trade said that he had been impressed by what the President had said in his speech last night. Realistically, however, it was difficult for Britain greatly to increase her imports of Nigeria's non-oil products. But the British private sector was free to invest abroad, now that exchange controls had been lifted; and he hoped that suitable opportunities would be identified in Nigeria, a process in which the recent exchange of high-level visits would have a useful effect. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary referred to the recent meeting he had held of some 40 businessmen following his visit to Lagos. He had detected considerable new interest in the prospects in Nigeria. The President would have the opportunity of addressing 400 British businessmen later this week. He thought that there might possibly be scope for importing more of Nigeria's traditional products - but only if more could be produced. The Secretary of State for Trade agreed that there seemed to be interesting possibilities in the agricultural sector as well as various other parts of the economy, for joint ventures.

(At this point, the Prime Minister and President Shagari joined the plenary session).

/ The Prime Minister

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The Prime Minister explained that she and the President had been able to discuss African problems, concentrating especially on Namibia. It seemed clear that our objectives were the same; the question was how best to get there. Their discussion had been most valuable. They had both been disappointed about the breakdown of the PIM in Geneva which seemed to have been caused partly by the South Africans' decision to await the views of the new United States Administration, which still had to define its policy in at least four major areas of foreign policy, of which Southern Africa was one.

President Shagari and Professor Audu set out the Nigerian position over the possible enlargement of the UN Security Council. They felt that the developing world was not adequately represented in the present 15-member council and hoped for three extra permanent seats (for Latin America, Africa and Asia) besides some extra rotating places. There was a growing frustration among certain large third-world countries which were essentially moderate and which might help in the process of conciliation, such as Brazil, Nigeria and India. Their presence in the UNSC might well outweigh the dangers of enlargement. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary said that while he understood the logic of the Nigerian position, he could see a serious practical difficulty: even if it were possible to reach agreement on the composition of a larger council, the balance would change in such a way that the use of the veto would become far more common. This might cause the work of the Security Council to come virtually to a halt: the new arrangement would ensure a two-thirds majority over a number of highly sensitive issues; and this in turn would inevitably cause certain Permanent Members to use their blocking power. Sir Michael Palliser added that there would in any case be grave difficulties over how to choose the extra Permanent Members. Nigeria would clearly be in a strong position in the case of Africa; but it was by no means certain that India would be uncontested in the Asian context, where Japan had a powerful claim; nor was Brazil a certain choice for Latin America. Sir Mervyn Brown suggested that the aims of Nigeria might surely be achieved within the existing numbers for the Security Council, where it seemed reasonable to see certain larger countries represented on a permanent basis.

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/ The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister turned next to the forthcoming Mexico Economic Summit and asked whether the President wished to discuss this beforehand. President Shagari replied that he did not expect any dramatic breakthrough, but hoped that at least it would be possible to break the deadlock in the various discussions between North and South. Professor Audu added that Nigeria did not view the Mexico Summit as a substitute for the UN global round, but rather a way of trying to define the middle ground between the two sides.

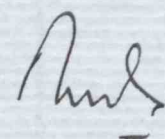
On the increased fees for overseas students, President Shagari explained that he had received many protests in Nigeria. He was particularly concerned about the position of private students. It seemed odd that the new increases did not fall equally on students from the rich E.C. countries. There also seemed to be particular difficulties for Nigerians who had already started their courses in Britain. The Prime Minister replied that those students who had already started their courses before last autumn were not affected; the new rates applied only to new students. If UK courses seemed more expensive than those of other countries, it had to be remembered that our universities had the best teacher/student ratio in the world (1 to 9) and were thus able to offer shorter courses to higher standards. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary added that he had discussed this subject during his visit to Lagos in February. The problem was that Britain had a very large number of overseas students (some 67,000); and subsidising them had been costing us more money than we could afford at present. With our E.C. partners, we were bound to reciprocity by the Treaty of Rome, anomalous as this might seem. However, the Government was trying to meet the problem by allocating a certain amount of aid money to alleviate the difficulties of the poorer countries sending students to Britain. It was not, of course, merely Nigeria that faced problems over this; he had received complaints from countries as distant as Hong Kong. President Shagari felt nevertheless that Britain would lose from these changes in the long run. We would surely not wish Nigerian students to go for higher education to other foreign countries abroad of which we did not approve. The Prime Minister replied that we would see if

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The meeting finished at 1615.



19 March 1981

Michael Alexander

WAD

REPLY SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AT THE BANQUET HOSTED BY  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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cc GAD  
Sir Allan  
Mr. J. J.  
Mr. K. L.  
PS/M/L  
PS/LPS  
PS  
PS/P  
18/1

Your Majesty,  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
Your Excellencies,  
My Lords,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I begin, Your Majesty, by expressing, on behalf of myself and members of my suites, our sincere appreciation and thanks to Your Majesty, Your Majesty's Government and the People of this great Nation, for the warm welcome we have received since our arrival here earlier today, and for the lavish hospitality which you have graciously extended to us tonight. I believe what has happened today, is not just a mark of respect for my person alone, but an indication of the warm feeling the British people have for Nigeria and its people. I also bring you very warm greetings from my people.

.../The people of Nigeria...



The people of Nigeria over the years have come to know, respect and admire Your Majesty. The poise, the dignity and the serenity with which Your Majesty have discharged the complex duties of your office are remarkable and have attracted great renown the world over. I believe the British Nation is particularly fortunate to have such a gifted and yet supremely charming person in Your Majesty. It is my fervent prayer that you may continue to give your usual wise counsel and noble inspiration to your Government and the people of this great Nation.

Although I have already sent a message of congratulations to Your Majesty on the occasion of the engagement of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer, I should like to, if I may, say how delighted we are to learn of the happy news. I wish the Royal Couple-to-be, a very blissful future. I also wish other members of the Royal Family continued good health, happiness and long life.

Your Majesty have said many kind words about me and my country and I would like to thank you for these very kind and touching words.

.../Your Majesty, ....

Your Majesty, many Nigerians remember celebrating your Coronation in 1953. They also recall quite vividly your memorable visit to Nigeria in 1956. We remember the sweet memories of that visit. That was twenty-five years ago. Since then a great deal has happened to our two countries and the world at large. On Your Majesty's side we have, with great interest, watched you cope most admirably with the transformation of an empire into a great Commonwealth of Nations. We have observed your movement into Europe, the further strengthening of your Atlantic ties, the continued protection of your democratic traditions and the effort of your Government to further enhance the happiness of your people.

In Nigeria, we have grown twenty-five years older since Your Majesty's visit. The thousands of school children who waved their affections to you on that occasion are now adults pursuing, with zeal and vigour, their various businesses and their proper share in the task of building Nigeria. And for all I know many of them may be here, within the gates of your beautiful islands, in search of

.../knowledge to improve...

knowledge to improve themselves, their country and mankind.

Since my assumption of office as the first Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, it has been one of my major concerns that the cordial relations between our two countries should grow and prosper. It is my fervent desire and the wishes of my Government and people to improve and build upon the bilateral and multilateral co-operations already existing between our two nations. Britain and Nigeria have very strong historical, economic, educational and cultural ties. We both belong to the Commonwealth of Nations which is fortunate to have Your Majesty as its Head. I am sure that our other colleagues in the Commonwealth will agree with me if I say that you have discharged your functions as Head of the Commonwealth with dignity and added layers of glory to a great Crown. This glory has spread over to diverse peoples across the globe. It is partly for these reasons and partly from its success record that the Commonwealth cannot be ignored in the community of nations. Comprising as it does, sovereign nations from both sides of the North/South divide, the

..../Commonwealth is a...

Commonwealth is a crucial third force whose sheer physical scope and democratic principles have placed it in a unique position to make very positive contributions towards the global needs of justice for all peoples and peace among nations.

Our two countries have worked together in various international fora in order to maintain peace, justice and security in the world. We both abhor the evil effects of the policy and practice of apartheid which is still being ferociously imposed on our brothers and sisters in South Africa and Namibia. Our persistent joint efforts together with those of our friends within the Commonwealth finally paved the way to the Lancaster House Conference in 1979. The acceptance by your Government of responsibility to arrange and supervise the evolution of Rhodesia into Zimbabwe was a commendable act of courage and determination. The eventual emergence of a freely elected democratic government in Zimbabwe and the prompt granting of independence to the New Nation was a major success of your Government and a great source of pride to the Commonwealth.

..../Even though....

Even though the circumstances of Namibia are different from those of Zimbabwe, we have great hope that the British tact and diplomacy which made Zimbabwe possible will be similarly applied multilaterally in search of a just solution in Namibia. We therefore sincerely hope that Britain will intensify all efforts under the auspices of the United Nations Organisation and the Five Contact Group to reopen the stalled talks on Namibia's independence, so as to take decisive steps towards ending the unnecessary wanton destruction and the ceaseless bloodshed still continuing in that country.

Your Majesty, you are no doubt well aware of the horrifying indignity and the socio-economic and political deprivation to which the black people of South Africa are endlessly being subjected under the obnoxious apartheid policy of the South African Government. This horrible state of affairs has been maintained against the conscience of mankind. All peace loving peoples of the world therefore have a clear obligation to express themselves in all ways

.../possible against the...

possible against the inhuman policy and practice of apartheid. We must continue to condemn apartheid in the most vigorous terms possible.

It has been proved beyond doubt that the weapon of mere condemnation of that notorious policy is neither effective nor adequate. Here Your Majesty, your Government and mine appear to have different views of what action is needed to bring about the desired change in South Africa. Only recently when your noble and distinguished Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary visited my country, he restated the British position that sanctions would not be effective and was not advisable and that only negotiated settlement would bring about peace in that troubled area of our continent. We believe that whilst we continue the effort of peaceful negotiations we also believe that economic sanctions cannot be ruled out, but must be seen as one of the ultimate weapons that should be employed at the appropriate time, in view of the ineffectiveness of peaceful persuasion and the continuing intransigence of the South African Government.

.../Therefore at the...

Therefore at the appropriate time, Britain, together with her allies, can contribute immensely towards the political, economic and social emancipation of the deprived people of South Africa through imposition of economic sanction against that country.

I am aware of the economic ties between Britain and South Africa. It is also well known that Nigeria is the largest market in Africa not only for British products and services, but for many of the products of the EEC countries and the United States of America. Other African markets are also open to Britain and her allies to develop and expand. The long-term socio-political and economic benefits to be derived by the Western World from Nigeria and other African countries far out-weigh the short-term benefits derived from having economic ties with apartheid South Africa. I therefore appeal to Your Majesty's Government and the other leaders of British Establishment to take some positive action to adjust their economic policy and pattern of trade so that they may progressively stop supporting and strengthening the unjust economy of apartheid South

....Africa. An adjustment of...

Africa. An adjustment of economic relations of Western World with Africa, in support of Freedom and social justice and against apartheid will give greater moral credibility to the image of those who zealously protect Western ideals of democracy and freedom.

Your Majesty, happily, there are not many issues dividing our two countries. Over the years, we have worked together successfully on various world issues. It is our hope that this spirit of co-operation will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Finally, Your Majesty, we thank you most sincerely for your boundless generosity and gracious hospitality. It is our earnest desire to continue to strengthen the bond which hold us.

Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellencies, My Lords, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I request you please to join me in drinking a toast to the good health and happiness of Her Majesty the Queen.

Long Live The Queen

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Long Live Anglo-Nigerian Relations.



COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

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18 March 1981

President Shagari's Call

I enclose a record of the tête-à-tête conversation between the Prime Minister and President Shagari of Nigeria which took place here earlier this afternoon.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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SUBJECT

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RECORD OF TÊTE-À-TÊTE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER  
AND PRESIDENT SHAGARI OF NIGERIA AT 10 DOWNING STREET ON  
18 MARCH 1981 AT 1515 HOURS

Present:

Prime Minister  
Mr. Alexander

President Shagari  
Mr. J.D. Sokoya

\* \* \* \* \*

The Prime Minister said that she was very anxious to hear President Shagari's views about the present situation in Southern Africa. She and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had always sought to avoid polarization in the area and to discourage the South African Government from taking up indefensible positions. They had consistently urged the need for progress towards peace and reconciliation. She herself had urged strongly on Mr. Pik Botha the need for South Africa to take a positive attitude towards the Pre-Implementation Meeting on Namibia in Geneva. She had told Mr. Botha that there was no point in "waiting for President Reagan" because President Reagan would take the same line as the Prime Minister i.e. that Namibia had to be brought to independence with full free and fair elections (the Prime Minister recalled that she had reiterated her policy on Namibia in the House of Commons the previous day). Her talks with President Reagan in Washington had confirmed to her in her view that the President was anxious to do the right thing. He faced a number of difficult decisions and was, very properly, taking his time about them.

The Prime Minister said that she was however now worried about how to get South Africa to move in such a way that bloodshed was avoided. This would not be easy. She had the impression that South African views had hardened in recent weeks. It was of the greatest importance that South Africa should move. It would be a terrible tragedy if, after all the successes that had been achieved in Africa, we were to fail with the last country. President Shagari's views would have great influence, both because of his personal standing and because of the weight of the Nigerian Government.

/President Shagari

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President Shagari said that South Africa was an issue on which the rest of Africa was united. It was the only part of the continent which was not free. The only way to ensure peace in the area would be to complete the excellent work done in the 1950s and 1960s and to make Africa completely free. South Africa took a different view. Their policies were obnoxious and condemned by the whole world. One could understand the fears of the white South Africans, but they appeared to see no alternative to apartheid. This was less easy to understand. The outcome in Zimbabwe had been acceptable to the whites. Why should a similar outcome not be found in South Africa? Unfortunately the whites there were not prepared to listen to reason. Britain's efforts had been commendable but "you know the sort of people you are dealing with". The other African countries were willing to negotiate with South Africa if South Africa was ready. The PIM had looked encouraging but it had collapsed. This was because South Africa had had hopes of the new Administration in Washington. If the United States were able to make it clear to South Africa that there would be no going back on previous policies, the problem could be solved.

The Prime Minister said that she agreed with President Shagari about the reasons for the collapse of the PIM. But everyone recognised that Namibia had to be brought to independence. She therefore thought that what had happened in Geneva had only been "a hesitation". President Shagari said that this might be so. But South Africa's attacks on Mozambique and Angola suggested otherwise. The difficulty was that the South Africans felt insecure and therefore unable to make concessions. The guerillas, on the other hand, saw no reason to cease their activities. Just as it was difficult for the South Africans to accept the futility of delaying tactics, so it was difficult for the freedom fighters to accept that it might be wise for them to wait a little.

The Prime Minister repeated that she thought the situation might have hardened somewhat in South Africa in recent months. She was worried about the increasing polarization of the situation. Some means had to be found to get people talking again. A solution in Namibia was the first stage. It would not be for outsiders to say who should win in the election. Our concern was that the elections should be free and fair. She agreed with President Shagari that the objective was democracy throughout the region and that the route

to this lay through Namibia. Once the US started to play its part in bringing the Namibian negotiations along, she thought this would help shift South African attitudes.

President Shagari commented that during the Lancaster House negotiations, the Front Line States had kept up the pressure on the Patriotic Front. SWAPO's friends were exerting pressure on that organisation now. South Africa's friends must also be prepared to influence the Government there. The Prime Minister agreed. The key factor would be the attitude of the US Government. In the end, she was confident, they would adopt the same attitude as HMG. If and when they did so, South Africa would be in a new position. But if there were to be a sanctions motion now, the United States would veto it thereby giving aid and comfort to South Africa. This would be a worse situation than if there was a pause while the United States made up its mind about its policy. There should not be many months to wait. President Reagan had four main questions of overseas policy to decide. These related to the Middle East, to East/West relations, to North/South relations and to South Africa. It was essential that he should get them right. Given the opportunity he would do so.

President Shagari said that he hoped the Prime Minister was right. However President Reagan's apparent intention to help Mr. Savimbi was very frightening. The Prime Minister said that the "Cuban dimension" pre-occupied the new Administration at present. President Shagari said that this might be so, but help for Mr. Savimbi would make things worse. The Cubans were in Angola because the Angolans felt threatened by outside interference, notably from South Africa. Their fears were only too genuine. The Prime Minister asked whether President Shagari considered that following a solution in Namibia, Angola would get rid of the Cubans and the East Germans. President Shagari said that this was his view. Indeed other African states would exert pressure on Angola to get rid of the Cubans and East Germans in these circumstances. The Prime Minister said that this was something which had to be brought out clearly. The message had to be that there were different ways of dealing with the Cubans in Angola than by backing Mr. Savimbi. Meanwhile Governments should

/continue

continue their efforts to find a solution in Namibia. The Prime Minister ended the discussion by saying that she had a horror of bloodshed and violence and was determined to find a peaceful way forward.

The conversation ended at 1545.


*And*  
—

18 March 1981



*With the compliments of*  
**RODERIC LYNE**  
THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
SW1A 2AH

  
CONFIDENTIAL

*des*  
*Am*

Mr MacRae (WAD)

Call by the Secretary of State on the  
President of Nigeria

Lord Carrington paid a courtesy call on President Shagari at Buckingham Palace for 15 minutes this morning.

*h*  
*d* President Shagari said that he intended to raise matters affecting Nigeria's residents in the United Kingdom during the plenary talks at No 10 Downing Street later today. He also hopes to discuss the commercial relationship between the two countries.

*2* Lord Carrington observed that there had been virtually no news about Chad since his last discussion with President Shagari, in Lagos last month. President Shagari said that this was because there appeared to be peace in Chad - though in reality this meant that the Libyans were strengthening their grip on the country. The Libyans had refused to discuss Chad with the OAU. They wanted to talk only to the Nigerians. President Shagari had rejected two invitations from Colonel Qadhafi to bilateral meetings in Ndjamena. Chad had been discussed only briefly at the recent meeting of the OAU Foreign Ministers in Addis Ababa: there had merely been a report on the situation and a re-affirmation of the Lomé agreement. The Libyans had made it clear to the Nigerians that the proposed OAU group to form a peace-keeping mission (Guinea, Benin, Togo and Congo Brazaville) was not acceptable to them. They had proposed instead that Chad should come under the supervision of a group of three OAU countries - Nigeria, Libya and Algeria. President Shagari had told President Sekou Touré of Guinea that if the OAU mission was to get into Chad, it would have to fight its way in. President Shagari referred to the attempt by the Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone to broach the subject of Chad in the United Nations Security Council: and repeated that the OAU still envisaged a role for the UN (Lord Carrington reminded him of the British offer of logistic support should this get off the ground). In conclusion, President Shagari thought that the Libyans had every intention of staying in Chad and of digging in: and seemed to think that a stalemate had been achieved.

Lord Carrington briefly raised the subject of Namibia. He described his talk with Mr Alexander Haig, and said that he hoped the Americans would take up our suggestion that they should send an emissary to Africa. They had clearly not made up their minds about Namibia, and it was as important as ever that we should give them time to do so.

/Finally,

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Finally, there was a brief discussion about the Western Sahara. Professor Audu said that this week's attempted coup in Nouakchott had definitely been mounted from Morocco. He thought that the Moroccans had recently improved their position in the Sahara.

*RMJ Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

18 March 1981

cc: PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/Mr Luce  
Mr Day  
Sir L Allinson  
SAfD  
NENAD  
Mr Alexander, 10 Downing St

CONFIDENTIAL



67

GUEST LIST FOR THE LUNCHEON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR. DENIS THATCHER IN HONOUR OF ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES ON WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 1981 AT 1.00 PM FOR 1.15 PM

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The Prime Minister  
and Mr. Denis Thatcher

Nigerian Suite

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Alhaji Shehu Shagari   | President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces |
| Professor I.S. Audu  | Minister of External Affairs  |
| Alhaji Umaru Dikko   | Minister of Transport   |
| Alhaji Shehu Musa  | Secretary to the Government of the Federation   |
| His Excellency the Nigerian High Commissioner and Mrs. Yolah |   |
| Mr. Iliya Audu   | Hon. Senator  |
| Alhaji Idris Ibrahim   | Hon. Member of House of Representatives   |
| Dr. Chuba Okadigbo   | Special Adviser to the President on Political Affairs                                   |
| Chief Olu Adebajo  | Special Adviser to the President on Information   |
| Alhaji Y.W. Sada   | State Chief of Protocol   |
| Mr. Mike Prest   | Chief of the President's Personal Staff   |
| Dr. D.S. Tafida  | Chief Personal Physician to the President   |
| Mr. Charles Igoh   | Chief Press Secretary to the President  |

British Suite

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell    | Lord in Waiting             |
| Sir Mervyn Brown and Lady Brown | HM High Commissioner, Lagos |
| Squadron Leader Adam Wise       | Equerry in Waiting          |

Unofficial Entourage

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Mr. B.A. Bur          | Permanent Secretary, Political                   |
| Alhaji M.L. Rafindadi | Director, Minister of External Affairs<br>Europe |
| Mr. J.D. Sokoya       | Director, Ministry of External Affairs           |

23

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| A. Alji Aminu Dantata        | Businessman |
| Chief Mathias Nwafo Ugochuku | Businessman |
| Dr. Emanuel Urohbo           | Businessman |

HM Government

The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington  
and Lady Carrington

The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP

The Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP  
and Mrs. Biffen

Conservative MPs

Mr. John Ward, MP  
and Mrs. Ward

Mr. John Major, MP  
and Mrs. Major

Mr. Bob Dunn, MP  
and Mrs. Dunn

Labour MPs

Mr. James Johnson, MP  
and Mrs. Johnson

Vice Chairman, British Nigeria  
All Party Parliamentary Group

House of Lords

The Rt. Hon. Lord Caradon  
and Lady Caradon

Former Chief Secretary, Nigeria

The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Head  
and Lady Head

First High Commissioner to the  
Federation of Nigeria

Industry

Mr. George Hughes  
and Mrs. Hughes

Chairman, Hughes International

The Lord McFadzean of Kelvinside

Chairman, Rolls Royce Ltd.

Sir Maurice Laing  
and Lady Laing

Chairman, John Laing Ltd.

Sir John King  
and Lady King

Chairman, British Airways  
and Babcock & Wilcox Ltd.

Mr. G.H. Wilson  
and Mrs. Wilson

Chairman, Tropical Africa  
Advisory Group. Director,  
United Africa Company. Known  
personally to the President

Mr. Adam Thomson  
and Mrs. Thomson

Chairman, British Caledonian  
Airways

Others

Mr. E.C. Anyaoku  
and Mrs. Anyaoku

Deputy Commonwealth Secretary General  
(he is Nigerian)

Professor Roland A. Oliver

Professor of the History of Africa,  
London University. Author and authority  
on Nigeria

Mr. Michael Crowder

Author and past lecturer at Ibadan,  
Ife and Ahmadu Bello University

Sir Peter Masefield  
and Lady Masefield

President, Nigerian British Chamber of  
Commerce. Chairman, London Transport

Mr. E.C. Judd  
and Mrs. Judd

Chairman, West Africa Committee

Officials

Sir Peter Preston  
and Lady Preston

Permanent Secretary, Overseas Development  
Administration

Mr. D.M. Day  
and Mrs. Day

FCO Under Secretary of State, FCO

10 Downing Street

Mr. Michael Alexander


Mr MacRae, WAD

Lunch for President Shagari

In the light of President Shagari's speech at the State Banquet last night, No 10 Downing St have requested a revised passage on apartheid/Southern Africa for the Prime Minister's remarks at lunchtime today. It might be useful to publicise what the Prime Minister says, to counter the effect created by President Shagari. No 10 have agreed separately that the Prime Minister should express sympathy over the death of Nigerian troops serving with UNIFIL.

I should like to send Mr Alexander a draft at 11.00am. I attach a cockshy. I should be grateful if you and other recipients could amend this in whatever way you think fit, or replace it with something more appropriate.

18 March 1981

  
for (R M J Lyne)

copies to:

~~PS~~  
PS/Mr Luce  
PS/PUS  
Mr Day  
Sir L Allinson  
Mr Barder, SAFD  
Mr Mallaby, Planning Staff  
NENAD

to see an immediate end to  
... concrete steps, such as the

I listened with great interest to your remarks at the State Banquet last night. I believe there is substantial common ground between us. The British Government is second to none - second to none - in its <sup>abhorrence</sup> of any form of discrimination based on race or ethnic background.

*most distinctive*

This is one of the major problems of the modern world. There are few, if any, countries which are not touched by it: and very few in which perfect harmony exists between the different groups. For many years successive British Governments have tried to promote racial tolerance, both at home and internationally. ~~We would not claim to have solved all of our problems in our own country, but we shall continue to be resolute in opposing those who foster ethnic divisions.~~ As you will recall, one of my predecessors as Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party, Mr Harold Macmillan, did much to alert the world to the dangers of apartheid: and successive British Governments ~~have taken a~~ <sup>consistent</sup> ~~consistent stand against it, and~~ have made great efforts to break down the barriers. Our record of decolonisation, in Africa in the 1950s and 60s bears witness to this. So does the part we have played in the Commonwealth, which has a unique role in bringing together not just the leaders of a broad group of countries across the globe, but people of many races at all levels. More recently the Lancaster House settlement brought to an end a long and ugly conflict with racial overtones, and has ~~at least~~ resolved one of the problems of southern Africa. With four Western partners we have played a leading part in moves to bring about a peaceful settlement of another of that region's conflicts, that in Namibia. As I told the House of Commons only yesterday, it remains our objective to see a genuinely independent Namibia following proper elections under a free ballot.

*The President*

- ① word 1 change
- ② record 1 dependent to aligned
- ③ Commission
- ④ the behavior before
- ⑤

In South Africa itself, we have left no shadow of doubt about our desire to see an immediate end to apartheid. <sup>We have gone beyond mere condemnation</sup> We have taken concrete steps, such as the Code of Conduct of the European Community. <sup>or companies with interests in S. Africa.</sup> And we have interceded repeatedly with the Government of that country. I believe that we all have a duty to try to avoid a racial conflict within South Africa. I am convinced that the best way to achieve this is not to promote further confrontation but to encourage the government and people of that country to appreciate that their long term interests can only be served by the ending of the present tragic <sup>division</sup> divisions. I believe South Africans must be encouraged to make every effort to return to a normal place in the <sup>international</sup> community, which can only occur with the disappearance of apartheid.

On the subject of creating harmony among nations, I was shocked to learn of the attack on Nigerian troops participating in the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Lebanon. ~~As we in Britain know from our recent experience in Zimbabwe,~~ it is a thankless task to be interposed between armies in this way. I would like to express the British Government's deep sympathy to you following the casualties which your forces sustained.

R. President



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 March 1981

*ms*

*Dear Michael,*

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria: 17-20 March

I enclose additional briefing for the talks between the Prime Minister and the Nigerian President on Wednesday, 18 March:

- (a) a revised Brief No 10 on International Economic Issues (to take account of the Vienna Preparatory Meeting);
- (b) a supplement to Brief No 7 (South Africa) to cover South African North Sea interests, following press interest on this over the weekend;
- At Brief no. 5* (c) a note on Nigerian casualties in the Lebanon.

You may also be interested to know that High Commissioner Yolah has just revealed that he is to return to Nigeria at or just after the end of the State Visit (perhaps to become Permanent Secretary MEA). We are currently seeking agreement for his successor, a Northerner from Bauchi in the North-East with a background of Government Service within Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Awak.

I am copying this letter to Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade).

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St

GRS 340

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM LAGOS 161400Z MAR 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 265 OF 16 MARCH

*mb*

PRESIDENT SHAGARI'S STATE VISIT : NIGERIAN PRESS COMMENT

1. SOME PRELIMINARY REPORTS SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE STATE VISIT HAVE APPEARED IN THE NIGERIAN PRESS. THE "NATIONAL CONCORD" LONDON CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES THE NIGERIAN FLAGS FLYING IN THE MALL AND SAYS THAT A RED CARPET RECEPTION AWAITS THE PRESIDENT. "NIGERIA IS SET TO STEAL THE SHOW, AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT WEEK".
2. PREDICABLY, HOWEVER, MOST COMMENT EMPHASISES THE AREAS OF FRICTION IN ANGLO-NIGERIAN RELATIONS. AN EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED "SUNDAY TIMES" COMPLAINS ABOUT INCREASED STUDENT FEES, THE "LOP-SIDED TRADE PATTERN", AND THE LACK OF PROGRESS OVER NAMIBIA/SOUTH AFRICA. IT ALSO CLAIMS THAT BRITAIN "IS BECOMING PROGRESSIVELY MORE RACIALIST THAN BEFORE" AND CLAIMS THIS EXPLAINS HMG'S SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY.
3. THE "DAILY TIMES", ALSO GOVERNMENT OWNED, ADOPTS A GENERALLY MORE CONSTRUCTIVE TONE AND DEVOTES ITS FIRST THREE PAGES TO THE VISIT. A LONG EDITORIAL DESCRIBES THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL REASONS WHY, FOR MANY YEARS, NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY CLOSELY FOLLOWED THAT OF BRITAIN. BUT NOW, SAYS THE EDITORIAL, "AFRICA HAS BECOME THE PIVOT OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. DYNAMISM HAS BECOME THE KEY WORD". THE PAPER CLAIMS THAT AFRICA, IN PARTICULAR NIGERIA, IS NOT PAID ENOUGH ATTENTION IN BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF BRITISH INVESTMENTS HERE. THE PAPER TAKES HMG TO TASK OVER ZIMBABWE WHERE "BRITAIN HAS RENEGADED (SIC) ON ITS PROMISE TO MAKE ZIMBABWE A VIABLE NATION ECONOMICALLY", AND WHERE A LARGE AMOUNT OF LAND IS STILL IN WHITE HANDS. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA THE PAPER URGES THE PRESIDENT "TO ARTICULATE AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS" AND SUGGESTS THAT HE POINT OUT TO HIS HOSTS THAT BRITAIN WILL DERIVE LONG TERM BENEFITS FROM HER EFFORTS IF THEY SECURE HER THE FRIENDSHIP OF NIGERIA "WHOSE INFLUENCE IS ENORMOUS". THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY REMINDING THE PRESIDENT "THAT HE LEAVES WITH THE ACCUMULATED GOODWILL OF MILLIONS OF NIGERIANS WHO ARE VERY CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO WHITEHALL TO MAKE A FORCEFUL CASE NOT ONLY FOR HIS COUNTRYMEN, BUT FOR EVERY BLACKMAN IN AFRICA".

KENNEDY

FCO WHITEHALL  
WAD

RESTRICTED



010

Rear Admiral E. W. Ellis, C.B., C.B.E.  
The Private Secretary to the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor

Telephone 01-626 2500

The Mansion House,  
London, EC4N 8BH

PS/SJ

16th March 1981

Dear Mr Whitmore,

The Lord Mayor has asked me to send you the enclosed copy of the speech he will be making at the Banquet which the City Corporation is giving on Wednesday next in honour of the President of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,  
Edward Ellis

*Handwritten initials*  
1. Mr. ~~Kennedy~~  
2. Lt.

C.A. Whitmore, Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister,  
10, Downing Street,  
London S.W.1.

*Handwritten initials*  
17 iii

RECEPTION AND BANQUET

IN HONOUR OF PRESIDENT SHAGARI OF NIGERIA - GUILDHALL

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 1981

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, MY LORDS,  
SHERIFFS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

MR. PRESIDENT, it is my very pleasant duty on behalf of this ancient City of London to extend a warm and friendly welcome to you on the significant occasion of your first visit to this country as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

IT IS PART OF THE CHERISHED TRADITION of this capital City to honour our country's distinguished visitors, and we are more than glad to entertain you today as head of a country with which Britain has such close and friendly ties within the Commonwealth.

IN YOUR INITIAL 18 MONTHS as the first President elected under your country's new democratic constitution you have, Sir, laid great emphasis on the task of nation building, and the need to overcome political, ethnic and religious differences.

IN THAT SHORT TIME you and your Ministers have also been reviewing Government policy and priorities, and your recently announced £66 billion five-year development plan has captured the imagination of the world, and the City of London in particular.

THAT INSPIRED PLAN, with its accent on agriculture, manufacturing and public sector industries, a commitment to building the exciting new federal capital at Abuja, and generous allocations for housing, education and health will be a lasting monument to your own determination to foster the unity of the new Nigeria and the well-being of your countrymen.

WE IN THE CITY OF LONDON congratulate you, Mr. President,  
and your countrymen on the outstanding  
achievement represented by your nation's smooth  
and carefully planned transition from military to  
civilian rule undertaken in the period leading up  
to October 1979. The quiet yet resolute and  
adroit manner in which you have steered your country  
through the problems that have come your way since  
then has earned the admiration of statesmen  
throughout the world.

WE, IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE PEN PREVAILS over the sword, have been delighted to note the continued vigorous, healthy state of the Nigerian media which fully upholds the international principles of freedom of speech.

AND IN THAT RESPECT our admiration deepened for you, Mr. President, when you said during the course of an interview last year that you "were prepared to accept press criticism, however bitter, as part of your new democratic system.....  
..... for the system needs a virile press".

BUT THAT IS NOT the only area of virility in which Nigerians operate, for they love sport, with our own game of football being the most popular. And in fact, Sir, your national football team, the "Green Eagles" recently emerged as champions of Africa by winning the African Cup of Unity.

NIGERIA HAS BEEN A CHAMPION OF AFRICA in other more fundamental respects as well, Mr. President, and your role in the struggle for the independence of sister African countries is well-known throughout the world.

INDEED, SIR, IT HAS BEEN SAID that Nigeria, with a greater population than the rest of West and Equatorial Africa put together, is the greatest experiment in African unity and constitutional democracy yet undertaken, and that on its success the future of Africa may well depend.

IN THAT CONTEXT, SIR, and conscious of the basic strength and long-standing links between our two countries, it is appropriate that I should re-affirm the City's, and indeed Britain's, very definite intention to contribute to Nigeria's economic expansion through investment, joint ventures and reciprocal trade, to the mutual benefit of us all.

WE FULLY RECOGNISE the importance of your country's new emphasis placed on agriculture. A "green revolution" that will win the age-long battle against the unaided drudgery of tilling the soil and for self-sufficiency in foodstuffs.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, MR. PRESIDENT, Nigeria wants "a new world, where no man and no nation is oppressed, where men as well as nations are judged by the content and quality of their human resources rather than military or economic prowess".

SIR, WITH THAT STIRRING STATEMENT of your philosophy ringing through this ancient Guildhall it gives me the greatest personal pleasure to ask all of you to join me in the Toast of THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.





Briefs -  
Folder  
behind

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

MS

London SW1A 2AH

13/3

13 March 1981

Dear Michael,

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria:  
17-20 March 1981

I enclose two sets of briefs for the Prime Minister's use. In addition to other ceremonial and protocol engagements during the visit (eg the State and return Banquets on 17 and 19 March) the Prime Minister is to hold a luncheon for the President at 1300 on Wednesday 18 March, followed by a ~~tete-a-tete~~ meeting (approx 1430) and a plenary session (approximately 1445-1600). Draft Speaking Notes for the Prime Minister to use as appropriate at the luncheon are also enclosed as well as the toast. This would not be the occasion for a long speech but remarks of about five minutes would seem appropriate, followed by a toast.

The Nigerians expect the following to attend the plenary talks in addition to the President:

Professor I S Audu, Minister of External Affairs  
Alhaji Umaru Dikko, Minister of Transport  
Alhaji Shehu Musa, Secretary to the Government of  
the Federation  
Alhaji S U Yolah, High Commissioner for Nigeria  
Dr Chuba Okadigbo, Special Adviser on Political Affairs  
Chief Olu Adebajo, Special Adviser on Information  
Alhaji Y W Sada, State Chief of Protocol  
Mr J D Sokoya, Director, Europe, Ministry of External  
Affairs  
Mr B A Bur, Permanent Secretary, Political, Ministry  
of External Affairs  
Alhaji M L Rafindadi, Director, Ministry of External  
Affairs

In addition to the Prime Minister we propose that the British side for the plenary session should be:

Lord Carrington  
Mr Biffen  
Sir M Palliser  
Sir M Brown (High Commissioner in Lagos)  
Mr D M Day  
Mr A C D S MacRae (Head of West African Department  
FCO, who will take the note).

/Those in



Those in the Nigerian official suite, who will have been at the luncheon but will not attend the talks will be fielded outside No 10 at 1430 and will be looked after in the FCO until the President leaves No 10.

The Steering Brief provides guidance on the tete-a-tete and plenary talks. We have agreed informally with the Nigerian High Commissioner that there should be no formal agenda but rather three main headings for discussion:

African affairs;  
Other international affairs; and  
Bilateral relations

and that within these, each side may raise whatever topics they wish. Given this flexibility, the briefing incorporates a good deal of defensive material.

We hope to let you have some further briefing on the question of a future Royal visit to Nigeria, currently under discussion with the Palace. Given the slight uncertainty over this, should the President enquire whether the Prime Minister will be able to visit Nigeria, it would seem best for her to respond positively but only in general terms. We corresponded some time ago about the possibility of such a visit ( - George Walden's letter of 30 December 1980 refers).

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

Nigeria



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

NBA/1

*Ph...*

5 March 1981

Dear Michael,

State Visit of President Shagari: Mr George Hughes

In his letter of 18 February, Francis Richards said that we would contact you again when we had further information about the Nigerian President's reaction to the proposal by Mr George Hughes that he might present a pedigree Hereford bull to the President.

The Nigerian High Commissioner has told us that he put the suggestion to the President when he was in Lagos during Lord Carrington's recent visit. The President said he wanted to think about it and the High Commissioner does not now expect to hear anything more until the President arrives in London on 17 March. There is no possibility of fitting this engagement into the State Visit proper, but if the President decides to accept Mr Hughes's offer during his private visit from 20 - 25 March, we are ready to make the arrangements for a visit to Hampton Court Castle at short notice.

*Yours ever*

*Rodric Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

(See pencil note  
on MODBA's letter 4/2/81)

MR. ALEXANDER

Lunch for the President of Nigeria

Wednesday, 18 March

I attach the draft guest list (67 names) and a list of reserves for the lunch for the President of Nigeria.

The draft list has been seen by David Wolfson and Ian Gow. Ian Gow's suggestions are included in the lists.

*Sue Goodchild*

---

20 February 1981

67

DRAFT GUEST LIST FOR THE LUNCHEON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR. DENIS THATCHER IN HONOUR OF ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES ON WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 1981 AT 1.00 PM FOR 1.15 P

---

The Prime Minister  
and Mr. Denis Thatcher

Nigerian Suite

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Alhaji Shehu Shagari  | President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces |
| Professor I.S. Audu   | Minister of External Affairs  |
| Alhaji Umaru Dikko  | Minister of Transport   |
| Alhaji Shehu Musa   | Secretary to the Government of the Federation   |
| His Excellency the Nigerian High Commissioner<br>and Mrs. Yolah |   |
| Mr. Iliya Audu  | Hon. Senator  |
| Alhaji Idris Ibrahim  | Hon. Member of House of Representatives   |
| Dr. Chuba Okadigbo  | Special Adviser to the President on Political Affairs                                   |
| Chief Olu Adebajo   | Special Adviser to the President on Information   |
| Alhaji Y.W. Sada  | State Chief of Protocol   |
| Mr. Mike Prest  | Chief of the President's Personal Staff   |
| Dr. D.S. Tafida   | Chief Personal Physician to the President   |
| Mr. Charles Igoh  | Chief Press Secretary to the President  |

British Suite

|                                    |                             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell       | Lord in Waiting             |
| Sir Mervyn Brown<br>and Lady Brown | HM High Commissioner, Lagos |
| Squadron Leader Adam Wise          | Equerry in Waiting          |

Unofficial Entourage

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Mr. B.A. Bur          | Permanent Secretary, Political                   |
| Alhaji M.L. Rafindadi | Director, Minister of External Affairs<br>Europe |
| Mr. J.D. Sokoya       | Director, Ministry of External Affairs           |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Alhaji Aminu Dantata                                | Businessman   |
| Chief Mathias Nwafo Ugochuku                        | Businessman   |
| Dr. Emanuel Urohbo                                  | Businessman   |
| <u>HM Government</u>                                |   |
| The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington<br>and Lady Carrington |   |
| The Rt. Hon. John Nott, MP<br>and Mrs. Nott         |   |
| The Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP<br>and Mrs. Biffen     |   |
| <u>Labour Party</u>                                 |   |
| The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP<br>and Mrs. Healey    | Opposition spokesman for Foreign<br>and Commonwealth Affairs  |
| Mr. James Johnson, MP<br>and Mrs. Johnson           | Vice Chairman, British Nigeria<br>All Party Parliamentary Group   |
| <u>Liberal Party</u>                                |   |
| The Rt. Hon. David Steel, MP<br>and Mrs. Steel      |   |
| <u>House of Lords</u>                               |   |
| The Rt. Hon. Lord Caradon<br>and Lady Caradon       | Former Chief Secretary, Nigeria   |
| The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Head<br>and Lady Head     | First High Commissioner to the<br>Federation of Nigeria   |
| <u>Conservative MPs</u>                             |   |
| The Rt. Hon. John Peyton, MP<br>and Mrs. Peyton     | suggested by Ian Gow  |
| <u>Industry</u>                                     |   |
| Mr. George Hughes<br>and Mrs. Hughes                | Chairman, Hughes International  |
| The Lord McFadzean of Kelvinside                    | Chairman, Rolls Royce Ltd.  |
| Sir Maurice Laing<br>and Lady Laing                 | Chairman, John Laing Ltd.   |
| Mr. G.H. Wilson<br>and Mrs. Wilson                  | Chairman, Tropical Africa<br>Advisory Group; Director, United<br>Africa Company. Known personally<br>to the President |
| <u>Others</u>                                       |   |
| Mr. E.C. Anyaoku<br>and Mrs. Anyaoku                | Deputy Commonwealth Secretary<br>General (he is Nigerian)   |

Others (continued)

Mrs. M. Williams (Judi Dench)  
and Mr. Williams

Actress. Ms. Dench has  
visited Nigeria twice recently  
under the auspices of the  
British Council

Professor Roland A. Oliver

Professor of the History of  
Africa, London University.  
Author and authority on  
Nigeria

Mr. Michael Crowder

Author and past lecturer at  
Ibadan, Ife and Ahmadu Bello  
University

Sir Peter Masefield  
and Lady Masefield

President, Nigerian British  
Chamber of Commerce

Mr. E.C. Judd  
and Mrs. Judd

Chairman, West Africa  
Committee

Officials

Sir Peter Preston  
and Lady Preston

Permanent Secretary,  
Overseas Development  
Administration

Mr. D.M. Day  
and Mrs. Day

Deputy Under Secretary of  
State, FCO

10 Downing Street

Mr. Michael Alexander  
and Mrs. Alexander

RESERVE LIST

Industry

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Sir James Hanson<br>and Lady Hanson              | suggested by Ian Gow   |
| Sir Reginald Smith<br>and Lady Smith             | Chairman, Wimpeys (suggested<br>by Ian Gow)                                    |
| The Lord Nelson of Stafford<br>and Lady Nelson   | Chairman, GEC Ltd.   |
| The Lord Hunt of Tanworth<br>and Lady Hunt       | Chairman, Banque National de Paris<br>Ltd., and Advisory Director,<br>Unilever |
| The Lord Barber of Wentbridge<br>and Lady Barber | Chairman, Standard Chartered Bank  |
| Sir David Steel<br>and Lady Steel                | Chairman, BP Co.   |
| Mr. Adam Thomson<br>and Mrs. Thomson             | Chairman, British Caledonian   |
| Sir Anthony Tuke<br>and Lady Tuke                | Chairman, Barclays Bank Ltd.   |

Conservative MPs (all suggested by Ian Gow)

Mr. John Townend, MP  
and Mrs. Townend

Mr. John Ward, MP  
and Mrs. Ward

Mr. John Major, MP  
and Mrs. Major

Mr. Bob Dunn, MP  
and Mrs. Dunn

Mr. Marcus Fox, MP  
and Mrs. Fox

Mr. Michael Grylls, MP  
and Mrs. Grylls

Mr. Christopher Murphy, MP  
and Mrs. Murphy

Mr. James Molyneaux, MP OUP (suggested by Ian Gow)

TUC

The Rt. Hon. Len Murray  
and Mrs. Murray

CBI

Sir Terence Beckett  
and Lady Beckett



RESERVE LIST (continued)

Conservative Party

The Rt. Hon. Lord Thorneycroft  
and Lady Thorneycroft

Others

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London  
and the Lady Mayoress

The Lord Mayor of Westminster  
and the Lady Mayoress

The Lord Chelwood  
and Lady Chelwood

Visited Nigeria 1980. Has met  
the President

Mr. Frank Judd  
and Mrs. Judd

Director, Voluntary Service  
Overseas

Sir Ian Trethowan  
and Lady Trethowan

Director General, BBC

The Lord Greenhill of Harrow  
and Lady Greenhill

Director, The Wellcome Foundation

The Rt. Hon. Lord Thomson of Monifieth former Secretary of State  
and Lady Thomson for Commonwealth Affairs

Sir Rex Richards  
and Lady Richards

Vice Chancellor, Oxford  
University

Dr. S. Prince Akpabio  
and Mrs. Akpabio

Close personal friend of the  
President

Viscount Boyd of Merton  
and the Viscountess Boyd

former Secretary of State for  
the Colonies

Sir Gawain Bell  
and Lady Bell

last Governor of Northern  
Nigeria

Mr. Justin Fashanu

Nigerian Footballer

Miss Patti Boulaye

Nigerian Singer

Mr. Daley Thompson

Athlete, Nigerian Mother



Nigeria.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 February 1981

*to Mr. Richards - 19/2*

Dear Michael,

President Shagari's Visit: Mr George Hughes

You wrote on 4 February enclosing a letter which the Prime Minister received from Mr George Hughes about President Shagari's programme.

Mr Hughes' suggestion that the President might be presented with a pedigree Hereford bull has been put in writing to the Nigerian High Commissioner who has promised to let us know his Government's reaction. We will be in touch again as soon as there is any further information.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

(See pencil note  
on MODBA's letter  
of 4<sup>th</sup> Feb.)



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

10 February, 1981.

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria

Thank you for your letter of 9 February, the contents of which we here have noted.

You are right in assuming that it would be much easier for us if the seven members of the Nigerian suite who will not be involved in the talks could spend the period between the end of lunch and their departure for Westminster Abbey somewhere other than here. May I take it, incidentally, that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will be available to look after Professor Audu and the rest of the Nigerian team during the tete-a-tete between the Prime Minister and President Shagari?

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SP



*Miss Stephens: to*

*mtc.*

*Then back to me.*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 February 1981

*Dear Michael,*

*all noted - 1  
assume you will deal with  
penultimate paragraph? Cf. id2*

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria: 17 - 20 March

Thank you for your letter of 2 February in which you confirmed that the Prime Minister has agreed that her talks with President Shagari might take place after lunch on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 March. The timings were discussed on 3 and 5 February with the Nigerian reconnaissance party, who were in Britain last week to discuss the details of the visit with the Lord Chamberlain's Office. The Nigerians have accepted the Prime Minister's offer of talks immediately after lunch.

On the assumption that lunch should end about 2.30pm, we would propose tete-a-tete talks for about 15 minutes, followed by a plenary session of an hour to an hour and a quarter. The programme then allows for the President to leave Downing Street at 4.00 p.m. for his next appointment, which will be to lay a wreath at Westminster Abbey.

The Nigerians have suggested that, in addition to the President, their side for the plenary talks should comprise eight people. They are:-

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Professor I S Audu | - Minister for External Affairs                  |
| Alhaji Umaru Dikko | - Minister of Transport                          |
| Alhaji S U Yolah   | - Nigerian High Commissioner                     |
| Alhaji Shehu Musa  | - Secretary of the Government of the Federation  |
| Dr Chuba Okadigbo  | - Special Adviser on Political Affairs           |
| Chief Olu Abedanjo | - Special Adviser on Information                 |
| Alhaji Y W Sada    | - State Chief of Protocol                        |
| J D Sokoya         | - Director, Europe, Ministry of External Affairs |

In addition, they would like two senior officials to be called into the talks if they think it necessary to do so. They are:-

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| B A Bur              | - Permanent Secretary, Political, Ministry of External Affairs |
| Alhaji M L Rafindadi | - Director, Ministry of External Affairs                       |

We propose that all of these people should be at the lunch (a proposed guest list is coming to you separately). However,

/seven

RESTRICTED



seven members of the Nigerian suite who will be at lunch will not be involved in the talks. The Nigerians have asked whether they might wait at No 10 whilst the talks are in progress, so that they can depart with the President for Westminster Abbey. I imagine that you would prefer them to be taken elsewhere?

The Nigerians have said that they envisage a 'comprehensive' agenda. We can discuss this with them in more detail later, not least in the light of Lord Carrington's own visit to Nigeria.

*yours ever*  
*R M J Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

RESTRICTED

Rile

JEG

Nigeria

5 February 1981

STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SHAGARI

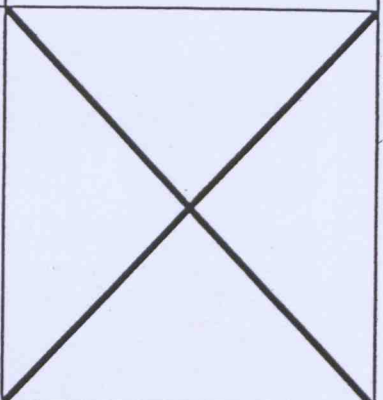
The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 3 February and has agreed that President Shagari and his official suite should be invited to remain in this country as guests of the Government for the period 20-23 March.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

K.R.Y.

**A** The National Archives

|  |  |
|--|--|
| DEPARTMENT/SERIES<br>..... <i>PREM 19</i> .....<br>PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>2370</i> .....<br>(one piece/item number) | Date and sign  |
| Extract details:<br><br><i>Letter to Johnston dated 5 February 1981</i>  |  |
| CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION .....   |  |
| RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4)<br>OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958  |  |
| TEMPORARILY RETAINED   | <i>14/3/2016</i><br><i>G. Gray</i>   |
| MISSING AT TRANSFER  |  |
| NUMBER NOT USED  |  |
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| DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)   |  |

Nigeria  
MA 4/2/81



Fle

DS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 February 1981

SF 16/2/81

President Shagari's Visit

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. George Hughes about President Shagari's programme during his stay here. I should be grateful if you could see that Mr. Hughes' suggestion that President Shagari should go to Hereford to be presented with a pedigree Hereford bull is taken into account in the preparation of the President's programme.

I should be grateful to learn in due course whether or not Mr. Hughes' suggestion is being taken up.

MA

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

24/3/81 F.C.O. say that there was no interest on the Nigerian side. Our High Commission tried to follow the idea up without success. FCO are content to allow the matter to rest unless the Nigerians show enthusiasm in the future.





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 February 1981

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 3 February and to say that your suggestion will certainly be brought to the attention of those concerned.

MA

George Hughes, Esq.



# Hughes International



GH/smb

3rd February 1981

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London SW1.

*Dear Prime Minister*

You may recall I have been pressing for some time for a state visit by President Shagari.

I am delighted to learn that this will shortly be taking place.

Nigerians close to the president tell me he has a few days free at the end of the visit.

They say he would very much like to come to Hampton Court and be presented with a pedigree hereford bull.

This could help my large-scale cattle programme for Nigeria.

This programme stems from the work of Cambridge scientists - which was another British hovercraft - discovered and unexploited.

Incidentally the large orders from Nigeria derive in good measure from my book on Development Strategy - which you received just over a year ago.

The Nigerians say any arrangements for President Shagari's visit to the castle must be made at this end.

I wonder if you could please refer this matter to the right person for action?

Kindest personal regards.

*Yours sincerely,  
George Hughes*

George Hughes,  
Chairman.

HUGHES INTERNATIONAL ~~SECRET~~ Limited

3 Berkeley Square  
London W.1.  
01 409 0225  
telex 299756  
cable Hughesintl  
London

Hampton Court Castle  
Leominster  
Hereford

Loughborough  
England  
cable Hughesintl  
Loughborough

Adelaide House  
London Bridge  
EC4R 9HA  
Reg'd Office  
972953 England



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister ①

Hope that President Shagari  
should be invited to stay on  
after the State Visit as an  
official guest of ATOB?

3 February 1981

Dear Michael,

Rush 4/2

MUP ml

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria: Possible  
invitation to remain as guest of government

I am writing to seek the Prime Minister's agreement that an invitation may be extended to the President of Nigeria to remain in London after his State Visit of 17 to 20 March as guest of Her Majesty's Government.

The Nigerian High Commissioner has said that President Shagari wishes to stay on in Britain until Wednesday 25 March. The High Commissioner has said that the President will wish to meet the Nigerian community, businessmen and rest. He might also like to go to Edinburgh, where he was on a British Council study tour in the 1950s, and for which there is no time during the State Visit. Given the commercial and political importance of Nigeria and our wish to make the President's visit as successful as possible, Lord Carrington is keen that we should offer the President an invitation to remain as guest of the Government after the State Visit concludes. To do otherwise might detract from the value of that visit. The Nigerians may not in fact decide to accommodate the President at a hotel, eg he might wish to stay with his High Commissioner; but the gesture will have been made.

The President is bringing an entourage of about 80 people with him for the State Visit, including pressmen and aircrew, but only 12 (Ministers, senior advisers and a physician) will form the Nigerian suite. It would be difficult, and probably cause offence, if the invitation to stay on as guest of Government was not extended to this number. Again, there is the possibility that some of them will be accommodated privately. The additional cost

/should



should not exceed £5000 if our party stay in London, and £11,000 if a trip to Edinburgh is included. This would seem a worthwhile investment if the gesture helps to sustain exports to Nigeria which are currently in the order of £1.2 billion annually.

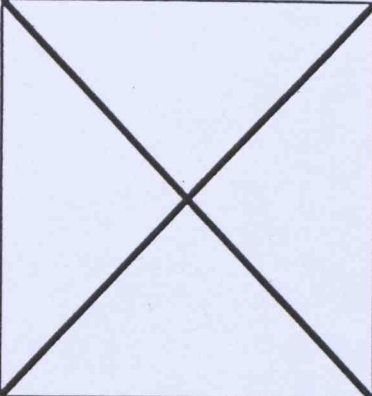
Given the Prime Minister's talks with and luncheon for the President during the State Visit, there is clearly no need for the Prime Minister again to act as host at a function during the week that he stays on. She will in any case be attending the European Council in Maastricht on two of the additional days, accompanied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. We would arrange for a Cabinet Minister to offer the President some entertainment.

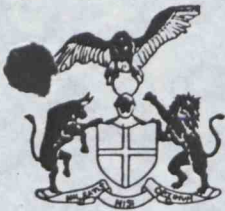
I should be grateful for the Prime Minister's approval to issue the invitation for the President and his official suite to remain as guest of the government for the period 20 to 23 March.

*yours ever,*  
*Rodric Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St

|  |  |
|--|--|
| DEPARTMENT/SERIES<br>..... <i>PCEM 19</i> .....<br>PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>2370</i> .....<br>(one piece/item number) | Date and sign  |
| Extract details:<br><br><i>Letter from Johnston to PM dated<br/>3 February 1981</i>                              |  |
| CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION .....   |  |
| RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4)<br>OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958  |  |
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| NUMBER NOT USED  |  |
| MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)   |  |
| DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)   |  |



# Hughes International

GH/smb

3rd February 1981

Mr. Cecil Parkinson MP  
Minister of State for Trade  
Department of Trade  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET.

*Dear Cecil*

In response to your letter of 5th January I have "uncovered" some N300 million - about £250 million sterling - worth of water supply contracts in Nigeria.

Two of the Governors said on the spot if I wanted their next contracts - worth about N170 million - they would let me have them.

The others I feel quite sure we could have.

The main interest seems to be in drilling for water and the heavy equipment involved.

No doubt once in, purification and reticulation could follow.

I really didn't want to get into too much detail because I wasn't sure how you wished to handle it.

Also I approached only established friends since I wasn't quite sure what or whom I was selling.

Clearly the climate for Tom King's delegation is right and I hope they will be able to make full use of the openings when they get to Nigeria.

I also 'have reason to believe' I have sold a BAC 1-11 to one of the Governors similar in configuration to my own.

He is coming as a guest to the castle at the beginning of his official visit and perhaps you would like to meet him.

I do hope this has been helpful and if so please let me know how you would like to proceed.

Kindest personal regards.

*Yours  
George*

George Hughes, Chairman.

HUGHES INTERNATIONAL ~~SECRET~~ Limited

3 Berkeley Square  
London W.1.  
01 409 0225  
telex 299756  
cable Hughesintl  
London

Hampton Court Castle  
Leominster  
Hereford

Loughborough  
England  
cable Hughesintl  
Loughborough

Adelaide House  
London Bridge  
EC4R 9HA  
Reg'd Office  
972953 England



# Hughes International



Mr. Cecil Parkinson MP

3rd February 1981

....

P.S. I see Lord Carrington is taking the usual group of "has beens" with him to Nigeria - instead of a few young-blooded "will bes".

When will we ever learn?

I trust that having pressed for a year for a state visit by President Shagari I shall not be excluded from that too when he comes!

I am also writing to the Prime Minister with an idea for using - profitably - the odd Concorde standing idle at British Airways.

*George*

c.c. The Prime Minister ✓



# Hughes International



Mr. Cecil Parkinson MP

3rd February 1981

List of contacts would be:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| The Governor of Anambra State, Chief Jim Nwobodo<br>Government House, Enugu:        | N 70 million    |
| The Governor of Kwara State, Adamu Atta,<br>Government House, Ilorin:               | N100 "          |
| The Deputy Governor of Sokoto State,<br>Mr. Garba Nadama, Government House, Sokoto: | N 70 "          |
| The Governor of Oyo State, Bola Ige,<br>Government House, Ibadan:                   | N 60 "          |
|   | <hr/>           |
| Total:  | N300 "          |
|   | <hr/>           |
| say   | £250 " sterling |

Main emphasis drilling and heavy equipment for drilling.



MINISTRY OF WATER & ELECTRICITY SUPPLY  
SOKOTO

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

232791

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| To.....      | From.....  |
| .....        | .....      |
| Subject..... | Ref.....   |
| .....        | Date ..... |

ALHAJI LADAN ABDULLAHI SHUNI  
COMMISSIONER



Alhaji J. Moh. Wasagu  
Permanent Secretary

SOKOTO STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

OFFICE  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
Emir Yahaya Road,  
Tel. 2435, 2326  
Sokoto.

*Water & Electricity*

RESIDENCE  
9, Abuja Road,  
Tel. 2029,  
Sokoto. 232049

file

SPK

BF13.2.81

2 February 1981

State Visit of President Shagari  
of Nigeria

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 28 January about the programme for President Shagari's visit in March. As I have already mentioned to you on the telephone, she has, in the light of your letter, agreed that her talks with President Shagari should take place after lunch on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 March. She would be content for the Nigerians either to stay on after lunch that day or to leave and return later in the afternoon. It might be slightly more convenient if the first option were taken up.

I should be grateful to know as soon as possible which the Nigerians prefer.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CS



(1)

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

I fear the Nigerians do not want to have talks on the Tuesday afternoon, the day of Shagari's arrival. This leaves 3 choices for the Wednesday:-

(a) cancel ~~your~~ your participation in Wintex & have the talks at the normal time that morning (11.45)

(b) have the talks immediately after your lunch.

(c) have the talks after a decent interval - say at 16.15.

None is very satisfactory but perhaps (c) is the least bad. Agree?

Ann.

28/1/81

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 January 1981

①

*Prime Minister*

*Apex option (C) on attached  
ephemeral slip?*

*Dear Michael,*

*And*

*29.1.81*

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria

On the basis of our telephone conversation on 14 January, the Lord Chamberlain's Office informed the Nigerian High Commission of the Prime Minister's desire to hold talks with President Shagari of Nigeria on the afternoon of Tuesday, 17 March. The High Commissioner, Mr Yolah, returned from Lagos on 22 January. He had seen the President, albeit briefly, and brought with him his reaction to this proposal.

The High Commissioner told the Comptroller designate on 26 January that the President has said that he would prefer the talks not to take place on the afternoon of 17 March. The High Commissioner explained that the President intended to travel direct to London from Lagos. To arrive at Gatwick at 11.35 he would have to leave Lagos at 4.30 am which meant rising about 3.30 am. The President would therefore like the afternoon of Tuesday free to rest between lunch and his call on Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at 5.15. If he could not, the High Commissioner said that he would have to ask that his time of arrival at Gatwick be changed. He would still like the Addresses of Welcome to be delivered as proposed at 5.35 and would lay a wreath at Westminster on the morning of 19 March before coming to No 10 for lunch.

In view of the President's difficulty, the Lord Chamberlain's Office agreed with the High Commissioner to see whether the talks could be arranged for some other time. I should be grateful to know whether we can offer an alternative to the Nigerians.

*Yours ever  
R M J Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St

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PRIME MINISTER

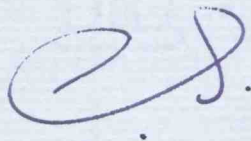
Nigeria

State Visit of the President of Nigeria

President Shagari arrives on Tuesday  
/ 17 March and you will be attending the statutory  
two banquets and also giving a lunch in his  
honour on Wednesday 18 March.

Michael Alexander is very anxious not to  
have the talks after the lunch (can't have them  
before because of Wintex) but the Foreign Office  
are not keen to have them on the day of his  
arrival because of crowding his programme. The  
other alternative is that he goes away after the  
lunch and returns at a later hour for the talks.

Shall we tell the Foreign Office that the  
talks have got to take place on the day of his  
arrival or would you be prepared to agree to  
the alternative suggestion.



12 January 1981

file  
RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 January 1981

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 2 January about President Shagari's visit to this country in March.

The Prime Minister has agreed to offer President Shagari lunch on Wednesday 18 March at 1300 for 1315. The Prime Minister envisages a large lunch for, say, 66 guests. The lunch would be preceded by talks beginning at 1145. These might consist of 15 minutes tête-à-tête followed by 50 minutes in Plenary Session. The Prime Minister will be grateful if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could be present for the Plenary Session.

The Prime Minister would not wish to attend the Lord Mayor's Banquet but would be willing to go to the return dinner offered by President Shagari.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED

MM

MR. ALEXANDER

kg. *[Signature]* 19/1

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria

1. 17-20 March noted.
2. Lunch on Wednesday 18 March. I suggest talks at 12 noon and lunch 1300 for 1315. Agree?\*
3. Talks cannot take place on Thursday 19th because of Cabinet.
4. Will you be letting the Foreign Office know how many the Prime Minister would like to invite to the lunch?
5. I really think three dinners three nights running is excessive for the Prime Minister and suggest that she attends the one given by The Queen and a return dinner by the President on the 17th and 19th respectively and that we refuse the dinner given by the Lord Mayor. Agree?

*[Signature]*

\* though I must have a word with CBE about WINTEX.

5 January 1981

*Prime Minister*

①



*1 enq*

*(a) lunch on Wed, 18 March, for 66 guests at 13.00 for 13.15; preceded by (b) Talks at 11.45 (15 minutes tete à tete).*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 January 1981

*(c) Attend President's return dinner but*

*Dear Michael, P.A. Decline the Guildhall.*

*Agree?*

*Yes  
RMB 5/1*

State Visit of President Shagari of Nigeria

Thank you for your letter of 24 December about the State Visit of King Khalid and President Shagari. It is now confirmed that the dates proposed for President Shagari (17-20 March) are acceptable to him; and the formal invitation from Her Majesty The Queen is about to be sent to Lagos.

The President is expected to arrive at Victoria Station at 12.30 pm on Tuesday 17 March, where Her Majesty will present the principal Members of her Government. Arrangements are, of course, being coordinated by the Lord Chamberlain's office who have enquired whether, as is usual in such cases, the programme might include a luncheon to be offered by the Prime Minister on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. This is proposed for Wednesday 18 March (at 12.45 pm for 1.00 pm or 1.00 pm for 1.15 pm).

The Lord Chamberlain's office have also enquired how many guests the Prime Minister would wish to invite. Lord Carrington would be pleased to attend the luncheon if the Prime Minister so wishes. We would also recommend that the Prime Minister should hold official talks with President Shagari. These could take place between 11.45 or 12 noon and 1.00 pm, ie immediately before the proposed luncheon, or, alternatively, on the afternoon of 18 March following the luncheon. Another possibility might be early on 19 March, before President Shagari makes the traditional 'out of London' visit. I need not go over the ground about Nigeria's current importance to the UK, politically, economically, as a member of the Commonwealth and as the leading Black African country. Head of Government talks would follow naturally on those which the Secretary of State will be having with the Nigerian Foreign Minister during Lord Carrington's visit to Lagos a month before the State Visit. I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible what are the Prime Minister's views on such talks. If she approves in principle, would she wish to have a tete-a-tete followed by plenary talks, which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would attend? Or would some other formula be preferred?

*before lunch  
et.  
Cabinet*

It might be helpful for you to know for the Prime Minister's diary that Her Majesty will be giving the customary State Banquet in President Shagari's honour on

/17 March.





17 March. We also hope that the Lord Mayor of London will host a Banquet at Guildhall on 18 March. The Nigerian High Commissioner expects that President Shagari will offer a Return Banquet, probably at Claridges, on 19 March. The Lord Chamberlain's office would be glad to learn whether the Prime Minister would wish to attend the Lord Mayor's Banquet. On the assumption that the Prime Minister is invited to the Return Banquet, would she wish to attend? (If not, we should be able to forestall an official invitation being issued.)

*Yours ever*

*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

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File

BK

24 December 1980

Inward State Visits 1981

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 22 December about the visit to this country of King Khalid and President Shagari.

She agrees that the invitations to President Shagari for March and King Khalid for June should now issue.

MOD' BA

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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93



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

①

Agree A?

Yes - I hope it doesn't clash with any

Phms 23/XII

22 December 1980

Dear Michael,

of my overseas dates

Inward State Visits 1981

As you will know, the Royal Visits Committee recommended that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia should be invited to pay a State Visit in June 1981 and that President Shagari of Nigeria should be invited for November. A slot for a third State Visit was set aside from 17 - 20 March.

We have since heard that President Shagari is most anxious that his first major overseas State Visit should be to the UK. He would therefore like to come in the Spring. On this timing, the invitation should be issued and preparations set in hand in the very near future.

President Marcos of the Philippines, President Banda of Malawi and the Sultan of Oman have been considered as candidates for the possible third slot. Visits by the first two named would be likely to attract significant public criticism. The direct benefits from inward visits by Presidents Marcos and Banda would be relatively modest. We therefore doubt whether there is a justifiable case for making these invitations, though both Presidents would be very keen to come. Sultan Qaboos is a much stronger candidate: but we consider that the year would have too Arab a flavour if both he and King Khalid were to make State Visits.

A | The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary therefore considers that we should press ahead with the invitations to President Shagari for March and to King Khalid for June. If King Khalid is unable to come in June 1981, we should invite Sultan Qaboos in his place. If, for any reason, President Shagari cannot come on the dates suggested in March, we should confirm the November date for him. Lord Carrington would be grateful to know as soon as possible whether the Prime Minister is content with these proposals, on which Buckingham Palace have been consulted informally.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

Nigeria



PRIME MINISTER

Visits and Visitors - 1981

I attach a summary of your programme of outward visits and inward visitors next year as it is at present shaping up. I also attach the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's programme together with a background note.

Subject to your views, your programme seems to me at present to be manageable. However, I hope you will agree that it would be wise to resist proposals to extend it much further. In particular the programme of inward visits <sup>\*</sup> is already looking rather ambitious: there will inevitably be a considerable number of unforeseen additions.

\* The FCS would like to issue an (undated) invitation to the Angabe early next week for a visit to London next year. Agree?

Am

12 December 1980

(Can we wait a little. I am not sure it would be sufficiently well received by public opinion. not.)

PRIME MINISTER'S VISITS AND VISITORS - 1981

OUTWARD VISITS

Fixed, in hand or highly probable

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| United States of America      | Late February/early March |
| European Council - Maastricht | 23-24 March               |
| India/Gulf                    | 15-23 April               |
| North/South Summit - Mexico   | Early June                |
| European Council - Luxembourg | 29-30 June                |
| Ottawa Summit                 | 19-21 July                |
| CHGM - Melbourne              | 30 September - 7 October  |
| Anglo-German Summit - Bonn    | ? October                 |

Proposals

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <del>Portugal - now looks less attractive</del> | <del>1 day</del>            |
| <del>Strasbourg</del>                           | <del>December - 1 day</del> |

INWARD VISITORS

Fixed, in hand or highly probable

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Panama President       | 30 March - 1 April |
| Ghana President        | Early 1981         |
| Romania Prime Minister | 13-16 April        |
| Anglo-German Summit    | 11-12 May          |
| Anglo-Italian Summit   | ? May or later     |
| Anglo-French Summit    | ? June             |
| Anglo-Irish Summit     | June/July          |
| European Council       | 26-27 November     |

/ Proposals

Proposals

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Mauritius Prime Minister | Early February         |
| French Prime Minister    | Early 1981 - if at all |
| Zimbabwe Prime Minister  |                        |
| Jamaican Prime Minister  |                        |
| Belgian Prime Minister   | Late 1981              |
| Cameroon President       |                        |
| Peruvian Prime Minister  |                        |
| Dominican Prime Minister |                        |

Notes

- (i) The Prime Minister of Singapore is likely to visit the United Kingdom under his own steam in 1981, to become a Freeman of the City of London.
- (ii) The Sultan of Brunei is coming for 4-6 weeks in the Spring to learn about the arts of government.
- (iii) The Prime Minister of Fiji may also come under his own steam.

MR. ALEXANDER

Prime Minister's Visits Overseas and Visitors 1981

I have checked through Roderick Lyne's letter to you of 1 December and can confirm all the dates he mentions on page 4, both for the outward visits and the inward visitors. I would be grateful, however, if when you write back to him you could ask him to go firm as quickly as possible with any of his "proposals". I think it would also be a good idea to show the Prime Minister the whole programme.

The FCO ask for a specific date for Sir S. Ramgoolam. I can manage a dinner on either Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 February and talks on either day, though the 12th would be infinitely preferable. Not much alternative around that time.

I really am going to be in great difficulty fitting anything more in.

*ES.*

5 December 1980

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*MODBA O/R.*

1 December 1980

*Dear Michael,*

Prime Minister's Overseas Visits and  
Visitors 1981

Lord Carrington has been considering possible programmes of visits and visitors for the Prime Minister and himself in 1981. I enclose a schedule of existing plans at Prime Ministerial level and of Lord Carrington's additional proposals, as well as a schedule of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's own plans. We assume of course that events are likely to necessitate additional visits, outward and inward, which cannot now be foreseen.

The Queen

As background, I should recall the plans for State Visits next year. The recommendations are likely to be that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia be invited in June and President Shagari of Nigeria in November. If there is a recommendation for a State Visit in March, it may be for President Marcos of the Philippines or President Banda of Malawi. The Queen will visit Norway in May, Australia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHGM) in September/October, and New Zealand and Sri Lanka later in October. Canada is a possibility in July. - *Patricia of Constance? - we may be having difficulty at that time.*

Outward Visits by the Prime Minister

In view of the UK Presidency in the second half of 1981, the Prime Minister may prefer to fit as many of her outward trips as possible into the first half of the year.

Lord Carrington welcomes the idea that the Prime Minister should visit the Gulf in early January or in connection with her Indian visit in April. He suggests that the best countries to visit would be Saudi Arabia, Oman and

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*Agreed*  
 the United Arab Emirates. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall submit draft telegrams to the Posts with instructions and detailed suggestions. (There will not be time to include visits to all six Arab states in the Persian Gulf, but the Prime Minister has met in the relatively recent past the Amir of Qatar, and the Prime Ministers of Bahrain and Kuwait. They will be borne in mind for another Ministerial visit in the not too distant future.)

The proposals in the schedule for visits to the US and to the North/South Summit in Mexico need little explanation. Lord Carrington will make specific suggestions in due course. We shall also make detailed suggestions about a visit to India in April. A visit to Spain would only be appropriate if the Lisbon Agreement on Gibraltar is implemented. If this condition was met, a visit during the UK Presidency would be particularly appropriate. A visit to Portugal (Paul Lever's letter of 7 November) could be extremely brief, but the Portuguese would wish it to be separate from any visit to Spain.

*Agreed*  
 The schedule of outward visits does not include an Anglo/Italian Summit in Rome in November. The Prime Minister may feel that the frequency of these meetings could be eased by suggesting in due course to the Italians that the second Summit due in 1981 might be postponed because of the UK Presidency until early 1982.

#### Inward Visits

*Agreed*  
 Sir S Ramgoolam, although Prime Minister of MauYitius since independence, has never paid an official visit to Britain. Despite his age he is not expected to retire soon. He is firmly pro-Western and his country is among the few which have preserved the Westminster model of Parliamentary democracy. Lord Carrington recommends that Sir S Ramgoolam should be invited here in the second week of February, when the Mauritian parliament (where the government have a slender majority) will be in recess and when The Queen should be able to receive him. Given the short time available, we would be grateful to know the Prime Minister's wishes as soon as possible.

*Please /  
 way to  
 delay.*  
 An invitation to Mr Mugabe would be an excellent way of keeping up the momentum of our relations with Zimbabwe. One of the regular Anglo/Irish Summits will be due in mid-year and should probably be held after the Northern Ireland

/local



not before  
election

local government elections in June. We shall be writing shortly with detailed suggestions about inviting M. Barre. It would be a suitable gesture to invite the Belgian Prime Minister for a brief visit before we hand over the Presidency to Belgium at the end of the year.

will be his  
to come with  
Cort

An invitation to Mr Seaga would be an excellent goodwill gesture after the change of government in Jamaica.

We have tended to neglect Cameroon, a stable, moderate country which is one third Anglophone. The Cameroon market, with its sound agricultural base and significant oil reserves, is buoyant and attractive. President Ahidjo, in office since independence in 1960, has just started another 5 year term. Lord Carrington recommends an official invitation in 1981.

Peru has recently returned to democratic government. The economy is strong and offers opportunities for investment and exports. Dr Ulloa, the Prime Minister, is also Minister of the Economy and Commerce and the most important person after the President. An official visit could win us a valuable friend.

The new, moderate Dominican Government would welcome an invitation to the Prime Minister, Miss Charles. There is advantage in demonstrating support for governments favouring stability in the volatile Eastern Caribbean.

You will see that Lord Carrington's schedule of inward visits includes the possibility of inviting the Polish Foreign Minister. But, depending on how things go in Poland, we may later wish to sound the Poles about the possibility of a higher level contact instead.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD and David Wright in the Cabinet Office.

yours ever  
R M J Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St

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SECRETARY OF STATE'S OVERSEAS VISITS AND VISITORS, 1981

OUTWARD VISITS

Fixed or in hand

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Morocco/Egypt  | 3-17 January                |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 19-20 January               |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 16-17 February              |
| Political Cooperation<br>Foreign Ministers - The Hague | 25 June                     |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 16-17 March                 |
| European Council - Maastricht                          | 23-24 March                 |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg                   | 13-14 April                 |
| Hong Kong/China/Japan/Pakistan                         | ?28 March - 9/10 April      |
| State Visit to Norway                                  | May                         |
| Foreign Ministers'<br>Informal weekend - Netherlands   | 9-10 May                    |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 18-19 May                   |
| NATO Ministerial Meeting<br>Location not fixed         | 2 days in May               |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg                   | 22-23 June                  |
| European Council - Luxembourg                          | 29-30 June                  |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 13-14 July                  |
| Ottawa Summit  | 19-21 July                  |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 14-15 September             |
| CHGM Melbourne   | 30 September -<br>7 October |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Luxembourg                   | 19-20 October               |
| Anglo-German Summit - Bonn                             | ?October                    |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 16-17 November              |
| NATO Ministerial Meeting<br>- Brussels                 | 2 days in December          |
| Foreign Affairs Council - Brussels                     | 7-8 December                |

Proposals

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| USA   | ?February/March   |
| Pakistan en route to Hong Kong                            | ?26 March         |
| FRG   | Early 1981        |
| Moscow  | Early 1981        |
| Nigeria   | February 1981     |
| France for brief Bilateral<br>North/South Summit - Mexico | Early June        |
| Netherlands (handover visit to<br>outgoing Presidency)    | One day late June |
| UNGA (speaking engagement<br>in US?)                      | September         |
| Luxembourg: Churchill Memorial<br>Lecture                 | One day October   |
| Berlin after the Anglo-German<br>Summit                   | October           |
| ASEAN two countries en route<br>to or from CHGM           | September-October |

INWARD VISITORS

Fixed or in hand

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Mozambique Foreign Minister                 | 26-29 January  |
| Foreign Ministers' informal<br>weekend      | 5-6 September  |
| Anglo-German Summit                         | ?May           |
| Anglo-Italian Summit                        | ?May           |
| Anglo-French Summit                         | ?June          |
| Political Cooperation Foreign<br>Ministers  | 13 October     |
| European Council                            | 26-27 November |
| Iraqi Foreign Minister (perhaps<br>in 1980) |                |

Proposals

Foreign Ministers of:

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Poland     | Venezuela |
| Yugoslavia | Brazil    |
| India      | Sweden    |
| Luxembourg | Finland   |
| Mexico     |           |
| Botswana   |           |

Notes

- (i) The Department may wish later to recommend that the Secretary of State should attend the opening session of the Global Negotiations, which may be in late January.
- (ii) New Australian Foreign Minister likely to come under own steam in 1981.
- (iii) The same applies to the Portuguese Foreign Minister;
- (iv) and to the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister.
- (v) The Foreign Minister of Guinea may come in early 1981 as a COI Visitor.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*PM agreed. BML*

*Shagari seems unlikely  
to come.*

16 April 1980

*f.s. Hunt - 22/4*

*Dear Michael,*

Possible Invitation to Nigerian  
President to Visit Britain

Lord Carrington is hoping to meet the Nigerian President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, at 0900 on Friday 18 April in Salisbury. He would like the Prime Minister's approval to issue an invitation to the President to visit Britain, perhaps later this year, as a guest of Government or on a short working visit.

Nigeria is of prime importance to Britain in Africa and British exports are expected to exceed £1,000 million this year. President Shehu Shagari's civilian Government is conservative and free enterprise in outlook and now that Rhodesia has successfully been resolved prospects seem good for a significant improvement in bilateral relations. Politically, Nigeria's influence remains of great importance on Southern African issues. This will be the first contact by a British Cabinet Minister with the President and it is important that we should take full advantage of the opportunity offered.

The Queen postponed her visit to Nigeria in 1975 at the Nigerians' request following General Gowon's overthrow. The question of a possible future exchange of State Visits is one that Lord Carrington might refer to during his talk with the President in very broad terms, but this aspect would need to be pursued later after more detailed consideration. If the Nigerians were to suggest that the next step should be to resuscitate The Queen's visit, Lord Carrington would indicate that this question would need careful consideration in the light of Her Majesty's commitments. Our present objective is to get President Shagari to pay a short official visit to Britain later this year and, subject to the Prime Minister's approval, Lord Carrington would propose to enquire whether the President could come as a guest of Government or on a short working visit in the autumn, possibly on his way to or from the UN General Assembly. Buckingham Palace are content with this line.

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I would be most grateful if you would seek the Prime Minister's approval urgently, so that we can telegraph to Salisbury before Lord Carrington's appointment with the President.

*Yours etc*

*Paul*

(P Lever)  
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

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