

RESTRICTED

PRIME MINISTER

Visit by Senior Guinean Government Ministers

The Guinean Prime Minister will call tomorrow with the Foreign Minister and Minister of Information. The Guinean Ambassador will also be present. Bill Squire (AUSS Africa) will be present from the Foreign Office. There will be an interpreter.

Photographers will be in the entrance hall. I suggest meeting in the White Drawing Room. _____

Briefs are attached, together with a card. Although not in the points to make, it seems to me important to ask for our £5 million back (see paragraph 8 of background).

C.D.P.

3 July, 1984.

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RÉPUBLIQUE DE GUINÉE

Le Président

Travail - Justice - Solidarité

CONAKRY, LE 2 JUILLET 1984

Son Excellence Madame le Premier Ministre,

Dans le cadre des relations traditionnelles d'amitié unissant nos deux Peuples, le Comité Militaire de Redressement National de la République de Guinée a l'honneur de dépêcher auprès de Votre Excellence une Importante Délégation conduite par Son Excellence le Colonel DIARRA TRAORE, Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement.

Cette Délégation a pour charge de porter à Votre haute connaissance les raisons qui ont conduit au changement intervenu en République de Guinée le 3 Avril 1984.

Nous sommes convaincu qu'en dépit des multiples et lourdes charges qui sont les Vôtres, il Vous plaira de recevoir la Délégation de Monsieur le Premier

SON EXCELLENCE MADAME
MARGARET THATCHER,
PREMIER MINISTRE DU ROYAUME
UNI DE GRANDE BRETAGNE ET
D'IRLANDE DU NORD -

.../...

L O N D R E S -

Ministre qui Vous entretiendra de vive voix de la situation qui prévaut dans notre pays.

Nous voudrions saisir cette opportunité pour Vous réaffirmer la volonté et la disponibilité du Comité Militaire de Redressement National de poursuivre, d'approfondir et d'élargir les liens séculaires de tous ordres unissant nos deux Peuples au destin solidaire.

Excellence Madame le Premier Ministre, Nous Vous prions d'accorder foi et créance à tout ce que Vous dira de notre part le Chef de notre Délégation et surtout lorsqu'il aura l'honneur de Vous exprimer nos sentiments de très haute considération.-



COLONEL LANSANA CONTE

PRESIDENT DU COMITE MILITAIRE DE
REDRESSEMENT NATIONAL, CHEF DE L'ETAT,
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE.-

Call by Guinean Ministers

Welcome your strong stand on human rights and democracy.

How are you going about re-establishing this in Guinea?

Glad that we are able to appoint a Resident Charge d'Affaires in Conakry.

Our aid reaches you through the European Development Fund which takes an increasing proportion of our overall aid. In addition, we have doubled our small bilateral programme since your Government took over.

Welcome your pledge to honour existing debt obligations. Hope you will soon be able to clear off the unpaid debt of £5 million owed to our Export Credit Guarantee Department since 1976. Only then can we extend existing short-term cover.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 July, 1984

John Acker,

Mr. prepare a meeting folder done EDP.

Visit by Senior Guinean Government Ministers

In your letter of 22 June you said that the Prime Minister would be prepared to see the Guinean Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for a courtesy call at 1630 on Wednesday 4 July. We have now been told that the Minister of Information will replace the Minister of Cooperation.

I enclose briefing for the call in the form of Points to Make, Essential Facts and a Background Brief. Also enclosed are personality notes on the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. We shall let you have a note on the Minister of Information as soon as we can. Protocol Department are arranging for an interpreter to be present. The Guinean Ambassador, Monsieur Sompore, may also wish to attend. Mr M F Daly, Head of West African Department, is available to attend if you so wish.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

Miss Gifford

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2 JUL 1984

12 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11



London 22.12.1981
LONDON 22.12.1981



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY A DELEGATION OF SENIOR
GUINEAN MINISTERS AT 1600 ON 4 JULY

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Glad you were able to come to UK despite rather short notice - only dates in July when we are all available. Hope your discussions with Ministers have proved useful.
2. As I said in my message to you, we welcome your determination to establish a form of democracy based on the UN Charter. How are you going about this?
3. Also welcome your unequivocal stand on human rights in Guinea.
4. You will have been told of our decision to appoint a resident Chargé d'Affaires in Conakry. Hope this proposal acceptable to you.
5. Have you visited/will you visit other countries in the European Community?

AID [DEFENSIVE ONLY - IF GUINEAN PM ASKS FOR MORE AID]

6. An increasing proportion of our aid is channelled through the European Development Fund - to which we are major contributors. The European Community will doubtless give careful consideration to your needs, within the limit of resources. Bilaterally we have virtually doubled our aid since your government took over (from £103,000 to £203,000 for 1984/85).



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY A DELEGATION OF
SENIOR GUINEAN MINISTERS AT 1600 ON 4 JULY

ESSENTIAL FACTS

GUINEAN DELEGATION

1. When HM Ambassador to Dakar presented The Queen's message of congratulations to President Conté, the latter said that a delegation comprising amongst others the Prime Minister, Col. Diarra Traoré; and the Foreign Minister, Capt. Facine Touré, would be visiting Europe to explain their reasons for seizing power and to seek political and economic assistance. The President expressed the hope that the delegation would be received in London and we subsequently invited them to come in July. During the visit the delegation, which comprises the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Information, Capt. Mohamed Traoré, will call on the Prime Minister, and on Sir Geoffrey Howe. They will also have talks with Mr Rifkind, Mr Raison and Mr Channon.

THE COMITE MILITAIRE DE REDRESSEMENT NATIONALE -
MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL RECOVERY (CMRN)

2. Immediately after seizing power in a bloodless coup, the CMRN, as the new government styles itself, pledged a return to a form of democracy based on the UN Charter. It is rumoured that it is considering something along the lines of the Federal German system and has asked for a copy of the FRG's constitution.

3. The CMRN has also pledged to put an end to the corruption and repression prevalent in Guinea during the late President Sekou Touré's regime. As a first step they have released all political prisoners and restored freedom of the Press and the Media. These moves and the coup itself have been welcomed by the populace of Guinea.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

4. At present we have no resident Mission in Conakry, which is covered by visits from Dakar. If we seriously hope to raise our profile in Guinea and to influence the new Government we need some form of resident representation. Our major Western

/partners



partners are already established there and the new regime have intimated that they will remember those who show their support in the early days. There is also the question of a debt of £4.8m owed to ECGD since 1976. The recovery of this is a prerequisite to any consideration of a return to ECGD cover and a physical presence in Guinea will encourage the new regime to regularise the situation. Until this is done British business will be unable to take full advantage of the commercial opportunities which could come with economic recovery.

5. The new Post will take the form of a Chargé d'Affaires of First Secretary grade supported by a small local staff. He will be responsible to HM Ambassador Dakar, who will continue to be accredited to Guinea.

6. The Guinean delegation has already paid visits to France and Belgium.



GUINEA: BACKGROUND BRIEF

JULY 1984

1. The Republic of Guinea covers 94,926 sq miles, (population 1982 5.7m), and ranges from an extremely wet coastal plain to high central plateaux in the north, broad savannas in the east and tropical forest in the south. It is poor with GNP per capita approximately \$33 (1981). However its economic potential, particularly in the mining and agriculture sectors, is enormous. Bauxite is the mainstay of the economy but there are also deposits of iron-ore, diamonds, gold, maganese, uranium and titanium. The major commercial crops are bananas, coffee, pineapples, palm kernels, groundnuts and citrus fruits.
2. Guinea was formerly part of the French West African Federation and achieved independence from France in 1958. It voted against continued association with the metropolitan country and as a result suffered the abrupt withdrawal of French technical assistance and financial aid. In order to fill the gap it turned to the Soviet Union for assistance. However from 1975 onwards there was a perceptible opening towards the West, dictated largely by Eastern Bloc's failure to meet Guinea's needs.
3. Until his death following a heart attack in March 1984 the Parti Democratique de Guinee (PDG) was led by President Sekou Toure who had been in power since Independence. All organs of Government were subordinate to the PDG and Sekou Toure himself, although recognised latterly as one of the elder statesmen of Africa, had a deserved reputation for ruling in an arbitrary, corrupt and oppressive way. But in the latter years of his Presidency purges against opponents of his regime became less frequent and brutal and Guinea's human rights record

/which



which was one of the worst in Africa, improved. Immediately prior to Sekou Toure's death the number of political detainees was estimated at around 400 compared with 1000 or so in 1977.

4. In the days following Sekou Toure's unexpected death it became apparent that a power struggle was developing between leading Ministers for the vacant post of President, but that whoever took over would be a member of the Sekou Toure clan. In order to prevent this and a repetition of the corruption and repression of Sekou Toure's regime the armed forces seized power on 3 April 1984 and set up the Comite Militaire de Redressement Nationale (CMRN) with Colonel Lansana Conte as the new President. The new regime immediately voiced some criticism of Sekou Toure's domestic policies and his scorn for human rights; and although officially declaring itself non-aligned, the CMRN has shown every inclination of intending to continue at an accelerated pace the opening towards the West seen in the latter years of Sekou Toure. One of the new government's first acts was to pledge itself to establish a form of democracy based on the UN Charter and to promise to put an end to corruption and the violations of human rights; it made a good start by releasing all political prisoners and restoring freedom of the Media and the Press.

5. FOREIGN RELATIONS

Since the coup the new Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Cooperation have visited a large number of African countries and are at present embarked on a similar tour of Western capitals to explain their reasons for seizing power and to seek political and economic support. The CMRN has demonstrated that it intends to reduce substantially the influence which Eastern bloc countries exercised in Guinea even during Sekou Toure's latter years. The West Germans have been asked to provide replacements for Technical Cooperation posts presently occupied by East Germans and it is reported that the French have been or will be asked to replace existing



Soviet Military Advisers. It is unlikely however that relations with the Soviet bloc will be severed entirely. The new regime has also been active in establishing its bona fides with neighbouring countries, particularly Ivory Coast and Senegal.

6. ECONOMIC SITUATION

Guinea, with its wealth of minerals and fertile soil, is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa. But the economy is in a parlous state. The disastrous economic and agricultural policies pursued by Sekou Toure and his refusal to treat with the IMF have resulted in a serious balance of payments problem, an enormous external debt (SD 1.1 billion in 1982), shortages of all basic commodities and the importation of food (which should not be necessary in a country which was originally a net exporter of agricultural produce). A new IMF programme is urgently required but this would be conditional upon a massive devaluation and urgent reform of economic and agricultural policies.

7. The road to economic recovery in Guinea will be long and hard and there are already signs that corruption is resurfacing. However if the new government adopts sensible policies the long-term prospects for economic expansion are substantial. The CMRN has already invited the World Bank to discuss a complete currency reform and most observers believe that it will apply to join the CFA zone. It is reported that the CMRN has also approached the IMF and is to approach the Paris Club. Discussions with these bodies will not be easy and those with the IMF will not be helped by the Guinean's continued detention of the IMF Executive Director for Anglophone Africa (who they suspect of having used his official position to remit funds to Western countries for Sekou Toure and his family).

RELATIONS WITH THE UK

8. In the past relations with Guinea have been friendly



but insubstantial. The single biggest hurdle to improved relations is an unpaid debt of almost £5m owed to ECGD since 1976. Until this is settled or regularised ECGD will not begin to consider any extension of the existing short term cover they provide for business with Guinea.

However the CMRN has pledged itself to honour existing obligations and we must make the members of the delegation realise that the debt is a real barrier to improved relations.

9. Prior to the coup, the aid programme for 1984/85 comprised a Technical Cooperation programme of £103,000, all of which is committed to training awards. Following the change of government however it was decided to increase this by a further £100,000 which will probably be used to provide English Language Training for Guinean diplomats. We are also to begin a Key English Language Training programme (KELT) following the signature in Conakry of a Memorandum of Understanding containing assurances about accommodation and other logistical requirements for those involved in the programme. A decision to open a resident mission in Conakry has been taken and a delegation comprising the Prime Minister, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Information will be informed of this by Sir Geoffrey Howe during their visit.

WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
JULY 1984



COLONEL DIARRA TRAORE
PRIME MINISTER

Aged 49, a Malinke, born in Kankan in the Central Plateau. Trained at Frejus and in the Soviet Union. In his early days he was Military Attaché at Moscow and Peking. He was then Commandant of the Artillery School in Guinea. In more recent years he was Military Governor of a number of regions. He was also a member of the National Assembly for 10 years and was well known to Sekou Touré and to members of the previous regime. He is reputed to be a powerful speaker, warm and approachable. He was very much the Government mouthpiece in the early days of the new regime but made one or two minor gaffs and his relationship with President Conté is said to be an uneasy one.



CAPTAIN FACINE TOURE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A Malinke, said to be the intellectual force behind the military coup who was instrumental in the early days in creating the right image to the outside world, in particular to the West. He is said to have drafted all the early communiques which stressed the new regime's respect for human rights and international obligations.