

NIGERIA



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**DAWN
OF A
NEW ERA**





DAWN
of a
NEW ERA

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F.B.F. 6/3/19



THE NEW REPUBLIC

THE criteria for measuring the success of the National Military Government are not only in the records of activities and achievements, but also in the visible effects of Government's activities on the people of Nigeria.

The 'DAWN OF A NEW ERA' speaks eloquently of the great strides taken by the National Military Government within the short time it was established. It is hoped that this booklet will be the beginning of a series of publications spotlighting from time to time the activities of this Government.

Efforts have been made here, not only to record both in text and photographs the peace and tranquillity that prevailed; but also to explain the favourable effects of the Decrees and Edicts issued by the National Military Government during the period under review.

In preparing this booklet, our guiding principle has been to inform the people as accurately as possible and to draw from the people a clear understanding of the efforts of the Government to restore peace, happiness and prosperity to the Republic.



ERA OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION



On 26th April, 1966, Nigeria's National Military Government completed its first hundred days in office. This booklet is an attempt to review the record of the young government during this period. This is indeed a document of immense significance, a document that speaks eloquently of the great strides taken during this period especially when reviewed in the light of the shortness of the time and measured against the situation that had prevailed at the time the Armed Forces assumed office.

The Nigerian Armed Forces, although untrained in, and new to the art of government, was suddenly called upon on Sunday, 16th January, 1966, to apply their strict discipline, non-partisanship, dedication, honesty of purpose and sense of mission to the aid of the nation at a period of crisis. Without any thought of personal gain or additional remuneration, officers of the Armed Forces readily took on responsibilities much heavier than their normal schedules. The result is that the National Military Government has been able to achieve in this short time, a record that is not only a ray of hope for Nigerians everywhere but one that has speedily corrected and eradicated the grave problems plaguing the nation since independence.

The Nigerian Armed Forces have proved beyond doubt that, though complex, the art of Government can be satisfactorily performed by a leadership that is based on truth, goodwill, honesty, selflessness and good character, qualities with which the Nigerian Armed Forces, by their training, are heavily imbued.

The jubilation and demonstration which greeted the voluntary abdication of the former civilian regime made the task of the National Military Government a pleasant, though difficult one. The widespread relief that has followed every action of the young Government shows that these new rulers of the Republic have justified public confidence. Indeed, the sense of national belonging

which is being inculcated in every Nigerian Citizen is one of the greatest achievements of the new regime. For this, the people are grateful.

By adhering to the four cardinal virtues—prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude—the National Military Government has endeared itself to the masses of the people of this country.

The new regime's transparent honesty and selfless service has also commended Nigeria to the outside world as a nation worthy of unalloyed assistance in the battle for national development. The World Bank Group met in Geneva within weeks of Nigeria's Military regime to consider the advisability of continued aid to Nigeria. On examining the clear-cut policies and programmes of the National Military Government, and being fully satisfied, that the Government was in full control of the country, the Group did not hesitate to assure Nigeria of continued financial aid.

Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, Western Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Israel and nearly all the countries in Europe and Asia have pledged their continued co-operation. Sister African States have found no cause to doubt the integrity of the new Nigerian leaders and have extended their hands of fellowship.

Common Market negotiations for associate membership status for Nigeria have come through with resounding success. Relations with France which had been ruptured since 1961 are now back to normal and Nigeria and France have now re-established diplomatic relations.

Nigeria's voice at the international scene has continued to be respected. The Republic secured a seat on the United Nations Security Council a few weeks after the formation of the National Military Government—a great honour she failed to gain under the old regime.

From all indications, the fifty-five million people of Nigeria trust that the new spirit of oneness will continue to inspire the National Military Government in this era of national reconstruction.

SURVEY OF EVENTS

THE voluntary decision of the Council of Ministers of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to hand over the administration of the country to the Armed Forces with immediate effect on Sunday, 16th January, 1966, was as unique as the naive effrontery with which that regime exploited the nation.

The acceptance of that invitation by Major-General Johnson Thomas Umunakwe Aguiyi-Ironsi, then the General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army, brought an end to an era that was marked by social unrest, political quarrels, widespread allegations of corruption and gross abuses of power. It dealt a deadly blow on the mania for extravagant luxuries and to the cult and worship of material pleasures.

INSATIABLE LUST FOR WEALTH

After five years of independence, like old Sparta, Nigeria, young but nevertheless the elephant of Africa, had been turned by politicians into a timocratic state in which prestige and power, honour and glory were accepted as the highest values. Virtues and codes of truth were rejected as old-fashioned. The national leaders and other state functionaries, appointed to meet political expediency, had acquired so much wealth by means, foul and filthy, that their lust for possessions became insatiable.

A good government, it is universally accepted, is one that leaves the citizens better than it found them. Its function is to satisfy the needs of the masses of the citizenry. But the politicians left Nigeria impoverished so soon after the attainment of Independence as one of Africa's wealthiest nations on 1st October, 1960. Ambition and the desire for personal glory vied with the pursuit of money as the chief aim of the majority of the leaders.



Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, Head of the National Military Government, and Supreme Commander of the Nigerian Armed Forces.

NO SENSE OF MISSION

The subsequent adverse result of this situation was that it put power into the hands of opportunists and hitherto unknown careerists, some of whose only qualifications for state appointments were hypocrisy, dishonesty, character assassination and the ability to peddle falsehood.

Government leaders failed to realize that the privileges and benefits conferred upon them by the electors involved complementary obligations to serve selflessly; that a leader must himself be the servant of the people, must have a force of character and develop a sense of mission to inspire the confidence of the people.

Through the influence of the politicians the forces of government were mobilized in such a way that the national leaders became so complacent that given the chance, they would not hesitate to bequeath to their children the precedence which they enjoyed.

AN END TO TRIBALISM

In his broadcast outlining the policies and programmes of his Government on 18th January, 1966, the Supreme Commander said: 'All Nigerians want an end to Regionalism. Tribal loyalties and activities which promote tribal consciousness and sectional interests must give way to the urgent task of national reconstruction. . . .

'The National Military Government will stamp out corruption and dishonesty in our public life with ruthless efficiency and restore integrity and self-respect in our public affairs. . . .'

RAPE OF DEMOCRACY AND PRESS FREEDOM

Before the Armed Forces took over the administration of the country, democracy was virtually raped. Public opinion was almost stifled. Newspapers, which judge public issues on their merits rather than from a partisan point of view, became weapons of vain gloriousness.

Many newspapers were reduced to a bunch of 'chorus singers' thereby extolling hate, lust and tribalism. Those of them that tried—even weakly—to speak up against the demoralizing situation were banned from circulation.

Limitless political ambition resulted in petty rivalries among the various sections of the country. Although power was in the hands of the then Federal Government based in Lagos, the then Regional Governments played so much on the weak spots of the Central Government, that sooner or later dwarves saw themselves as giants. The image of the nation abroad grew from bad to worse.

EX-PRESIDENT CONDEMNS PAST REGIME

Quoting the former President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe: 'Nigeria was a bed of corruption, nepotism, clannishness, tribalism and all elements which make fair-play practically impossible in our relations. . . .

'Relatives appointed relations to high positions of State. In some cases, one man enjoyed as many as three or more positions of State. Corruption took the shape of bribery, favouritism and party patronage, while nepotism reigned supreme in official and unofficial circles.'

Power, the ex-Head of State recalled, was exercised selfishly in the interest of oligarchy and a practising clique of political fortune hunters and adventurers.

Undaunted, the past regime continued in its devil-may-care exploitation of the people on whose ticket it had come to power. Wealth brought the leaders absolute power and in the words of Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi, 'absolute power corrupts absolutely'. Political intrigues and booty-sharing pushed nation-building into the background. To remain in power, the ruling political parties stopped at nothing.

1964 FEDERAL ELECTIONS

In December, 1964, a General Election into Parliament took place. Bribery, corruption, intimidation and malpractices thwarted the hopes of the people. Announcement of results was immediately followed by a Constitutional crisis which dragged on for sixteen days. With the two warring factions claiming victory, the nation was left at a loss as to who was going to rule. In the end, the two sides compromised, teamed up to form what the then President termed a 'broadly-based' Federal Government.

1965 WESTERN NIGERIA ELECTIONS

In October, 1965, it was the turn of the people of Western Nigeria to elect a new government that would rule the region for five years. Reports of wholesale corruption, intimidation, debauchery filled the air. Rigging was alleged. The authorities declared one side the winner, and it proceeded to form a government. The other side refused to concede victory.



This symbolizes the arson and looting which characterized the disturbances in Western Nigeria before the Army take over.

CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

To use the words of Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi the 'crisis of confidence' among the various political parties and their leaders, reached a head during the elections in Western Nigeria.

Riots, arson, murder and looting became widespread. Innocent citizens fell victims of thuggery on the highways, in the villages, and big cities. Cars were burnt by the hundreds and men and women and even little children were set ablaze mercilessly. Yet, the Federal Government remained 'unconcerned' and refused to act.

While the situation deteriorated day after day with increasing number of casualties, the politicians' scramble for wealth continued. Foodstuff prices soared and unemployment increased at an alarming rate.

While the nation was apparently burning, a Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers was convened in Lagos at the instance of Nigeria to discuss the Rhodesian crisis. But Nigerians refused to yield to this 'feint' tactics.

More and more, the wealth of the nation became concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. The conflict between classes grew more bitter and an explosion became inevitable. What form it would take, no one knew.

ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT

And so, at dawn on Saturday, 15th January, 1966, a dissident section of the Army attempted to seize power. These officers kidnapped the Prime Minister, the late Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, and the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, and took them to an unknown destination.

At this stage, it was clear that the continued political crisis had driven Nigeria to a point of no return. The politics of compromise could not divert events from the course they had taken.

In his broadcast on accepting office about midnight on Sunday, 16th January, 1966, the Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, reported to the nation on the new turn of events.

'The revolt was widespread throughout the country and two Regional Premiers, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto (North), and Chief Samuel Ladoke Akintola (West), and some high-ranking Army officers were killed. The whereabouts of the Prime Minister is still unknown. The vast majority of the Nigerian Army under the command of the General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army remained completely loyal to the Federal Government and immediately took steps to control the situation'.

In the heat of the revolt, the Council of Ministers of the Federal Government met and reviewed the situation. Appreciating the immediate need to control the serious situation which threatened the Federation, they unanimously decided to hand over voluntarily the administration of the country on Sunday, 16th January, 1966, with immediate effect, to the Nigerian Army.

FORMAL HAND-OVER OF POWER

This was formally done at 11.50 p.m. (Nigerian Time) on the same day, Sunday, 16th January, 1966.

The then Acting President, Dr Nwafor Orizu, broadcasting to the nation said: 'I have tonight been advised by the Council of Ministers that they had come to the unanimous decision voluntarily to hand over administration of the country to the Armed Forces of the Republic with immediate effect. All Ministers are assured of their personal safety by the new administration.

I will now call upon the General Officer Commanding, Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi to make a statement to the nation on the policy of the new administration. It is my fervent hope that the new administration will ensure the peace and stability of the National Republic of Nigeria and that all citizens will give them their full co-operation'.

Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi spoke next. He said, among other things, that the Military Government of the National Republic of Nigeria wished to state that it had taken over the interim administration of the National Republic of Nigeria following the invitation of the Council of Ministers of the civilian Government.

'The invitation has been accepted and I, GENERAL JOHNSON THOMAS UMUNAKWE AGUIYI-IRONSI, the General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army have been formally invested with authority as Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Nigerian Armed Forces'

PUBLIC REACTION

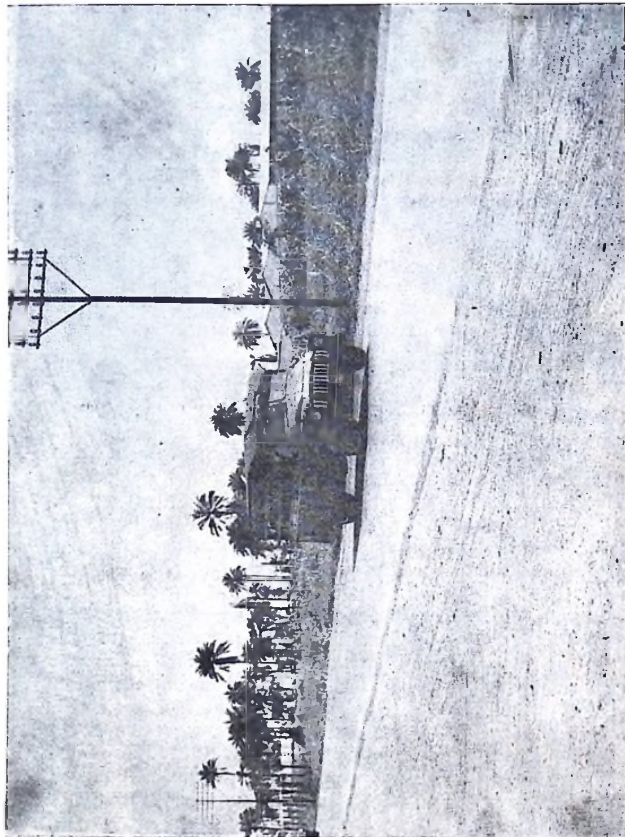
A demonstration of mass relief greeted the fall of the Government. In editorials, Nigerian newspapers jubilated. In the universities, the students demonstrated in favour of the new Government.

The *West African Pilot* said: 'Feudalism and reaction can triumph for some time but they inevitably bow to the will of the people in the end'

The *Daily Times*: said 'For a long time instead of settling down to minister unto the people's needs, the politicians were busy performing series of seven days wonder as if the art of Government was some circus show'.

The *Morning Post*, an organ of the old government, had this to say, among other things: 'Nigerians today are glad and grateful that they see this day, the beginning of an era in which the agents of corruption, greed, nepotism shall be swept away for all times'.

In a second editorial on the new regime, the *Post* declared: 'Gone are the days when, intoxicated with our dream-world euphoria, we saw little men and called them gods Gone too are the days when every penny whistle in this country saw itself as a trumpet. No longer shall tin-gods thrive on the simplicity of sycophants'



During the disturbances in Western Nigeria, travelling from one place to another became unsafe. Life and property were equally unsafe, but with the formation of the National Military Government, law and order were restored and everyone went about his business unmolested.

REACTION OF THE RULING PARTIES

The ruling political parties themselves justified the surrender of power to the Army.

The Northern People's Congress (N.P.C.), in a statement by the Acting Leader of the Party, Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, called on all the Party members and supporters to co-operate with the new regime and give it their unflinching support in its task of bringing peace and stability to Nigeria.

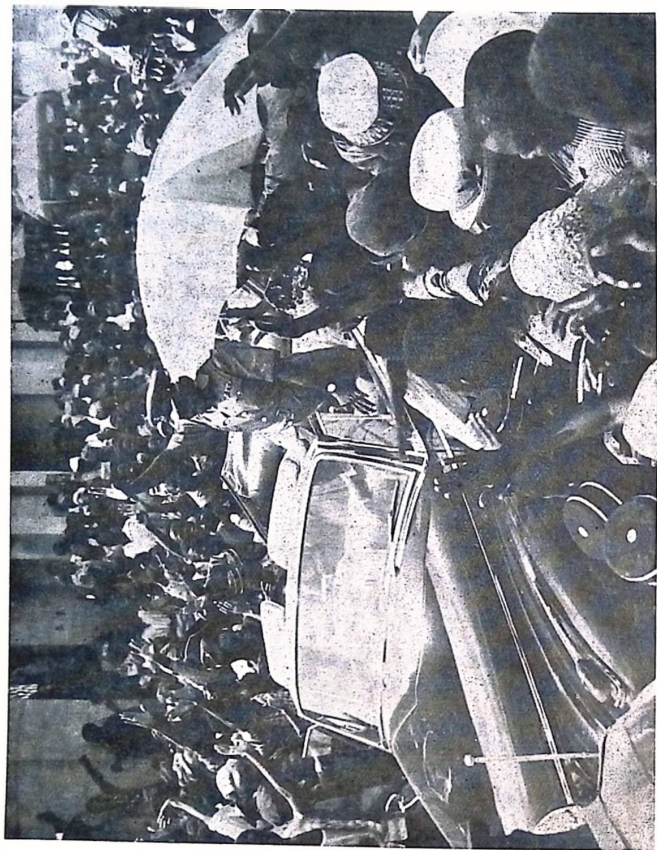
The National Council of Nigerian Citizens (N.C.N.C.) commented that Nigeria's Independence was won by blood, sweat and tears by the masses and it was only 'fair that the principles for which they fought, namely, parliamentary democracy, the rule of law and respect for human dignity should prevail'.

The Action Group (A.G.) saw the take-over as a 'continuation of the people's struggle to preserve parliamentary democracy and the unity of the Federation'.

The Nigerian National Democratic Party (N.N.D.P.) welcomed the Military Government and pledged its fullest co-operation in the arduous task of building a prosperous and unified Nigeria.

REACTION OF THE WORKERS

Nigerian Workers were elated. Both the Joint Action Committee of Nigerian Trade Unions (JAC) and the Nigerian Workers' Council called on all workers and trade union organizations in the country to give their total approval and support to the National Military Government. They said the take-over was the cherished desire of all Nigerians.



This scene is typical of the enthusiasm with which the people received the formation of the Military Government.
In the centre is the West Military Governor, Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi.

ARMY VETERANS

The Supreme Council of Ex-Servicemen of Nigeria called for an inquiry into the affairs of former Federal and Regional Ministries, especially their acquisition of property. They wanted all property illegally acquired to be confiscated and the culprits punished to serve as a lesson to potential offenders.

WHY ARMY ACCEPTED TO TAKE OVER

The East Military Governor, Lt.-Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu, said that the Army accepted the invitation to take over the Government 'because the Army wanted to keep the Republic intact'. The Army, he added, were determined to make Nigeria one country, free for all, irrespective of tribe or sectional interest and it was their intention to stamp out corruption and ensure equal opportunity.

The West Military Governor, Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, remarked that Western Nigeria had not known peace for a long time. The people had lived in fear of one another.

The Nigeria Bar Association pledged its support to the new regime 'in all measures for the establishment of fair-play, liberty and justice to all the people of the country.'

DEMOCRACY BURST INTO FLOWER

Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Mr N. Ade Martins, said in New York that democracy in Nigeria had just burst into flower for the hitherto 'confused and numbed voice of over fifty-five million people has at last been clearly heard and faithfully obeyed. . . .'

NO POLITICAL AMBITION

The Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, has left the nation in no doubt as to his Government's intentions. His Government, he said, had no political affiliation or ambition; nor did it come to power with the fiat of any political party. His Government, he declared, had no desire to prolong its interim administration longer than was necessary for the orderly transition of the country to the type of Government desired by the people.



Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, addressing one of the Study Groups

STUDY GROUPS AND CORPORATIONS

FROM the activities and performances of the National Military Government since its inception, it is clear that the Military administration possesses among other attributes, a sense of direction and purpose in its approach to the eradication of the political problems and social evils of the past.

The military administration has been saddled with many duties, prominent among which are the maintenance of stability and order, the effective governing of the country, and the organization of all national institutions aimed at evolving a patriotic and dynamic civilian administration.

NEED FOR REFORMS

Addressing the Press on 21st February, 1966, His Excellency, Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi said: '... As a first step, administrative reforms are essential in order to lay a solid foundation not only for the present but for the future as well.

'Matters which were formerly within the legislative competence of the regions will need to be viewed so that issues of national importance would be centrally controlled and directed towards OVERALL and UNIFORM development in the economic and social fields.

'The works programme of the Supreme Military Council and the National Military Government will necessarily include the establishment of certain essential organs which are indispensable to ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT in some major and sensitive areas where proper planning has been neglected, haphazard or unco-ordinated.... A solution suitable to our national needs must be found'.

In effect, the Military Government is determined to see that the changes that will affect the destiny of the people should be made with their full knowledge and consent.

To achieve this, Study Groups and Committees were set up by the Supreme Commander 'to study and submit working papers on constitutional, administrative and institutional problems in the CONTEXT OF NATIONAL UNITY'.

ONE NIGERIA

In his broadcast to the nation on 31st March, 1966, the Supreme Commander said:

'I am convinced the bulk of our people want a United Nigeria and they want in future one Government for Nigeria and not a multitude of Governments. They want one Government whose units of legislative and administrative devolution would, on the one hand, be nearer to the people than the old Region was, and, on the other hand, be of such a size most likely to satisfy local needs but of such limited powers as not to constitute a danger to the unity of Nigeria'.

The Supreme Commander further emphasized: 'This is the aim of the Supreme Military Council; this is the frame of reference within which all our measures of national reconstruction—political, economic and administrative—must be formulated, this is the common guideline for all the Study Groups that have been appointed or may be appointed in future to advise and assist me in the achievement of our great NATIONAL OBJECTIVE of creating ONE NIGERIA'.

Accordingly, the study groups are working on a nation-wide basis and inviting memoranda from the public. With precision and determination characteristic of the Army, the Supreme Commander has reserved no efforts to seek solutions to Nigeria's problems.

The National Military Government has gone ahead to tap every 'fount of knowledge requisite for the discharge of the responsibilities' of national reconstruction.



Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi and the four Military Governors. From left: Lt. Col. Hassan Usman Katsina—North; Lt. Col. F. Adekunle Fajuyi—West; Lt. Col. C. Odumegwu-Ojukwu—East; and Lt. Col. David A. Ejor—Mid-West.



G. C. M. Onyulke Esq., Attorney-
General of the Republic of
Nigeria.



Mr S. O. Wey, Secretary to the National
Military Government.

PREMIUM ON COMPETENCE

It is transparent to all unbiased observers, and there is evidence since the establishment of Military administration of Nigeria, that the Supreme Commander and his men have placed great premium on proven ability, specialized knowledge, vast and rich experience, competence and a sense of dedication as the criteria in the choice of members of the various study groups and working parties.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

Right from the beginning, it was clear that nowhere else would this 'fount of knowledge' be immediately, readily and willingly available than in the nation's civil service.

This was underscored by Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Mr Ade. Martins, when he said, in an address to the Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce shortly after the events of 15th January, 1966:

'Although Chief Adebayo and I are 'expatriate' members of it (Nigeria Civil Service), I hope you will forgive me if I speak a word of praise and admiration for the Nigerian Civil Service. It is no exaggeration to say that this band of highly trained and dedicated men and women provided the cement which held the structure of Government together at a time when it might have fallen apart under the tremendous pressure momentarily exerted with so little warning by the crash of timber in the topmost storey. Among the Civil Servants, no heads rolled, there was no widespread dismissal of officials on the ground of suspected lack of enthusiasm for the new regime, no flight of those fearing retribution for past misdeeds because such misdeeds have been infrequent exceptions rather than the rule. The complaints of corruption in certain circles scarcely touched the civil service'.

Mr Martins continued: 'The affairs and fate of the nation were safely entrusted to their hands during the testing and uncertain days of the crisis, and will be safe there, I am confident, through whatever new (and it is hoped less burdensome) trials may lie ahead'.

A proof of the confidence reposed in the civil service by the Military Government has been the appointment of civil servants in large numbers to Boards of Statutory Corporations and State-owned Companies; and as members of the specialized study groups and committees.



Supreme Commander addressing Study Group on Education at State House, Lagos. Sitting in the foreground is Chief S. O. Awokoya, Chief Adviser on Education.

END OF POLITICAL JOBBERY

Chairmen and Board members of Statutory Corporations and State-owned Companies were formerly picked from among political stooges whose main interests were either personal or partisan. Now the order has changed. New Board members appointed by the Military Government are not paid, whereas during the political era members drew fabulous allowances for doing little or nothing. Chairmen in the last regime were heavily remunerated and some turned the corporations, and national establishments, into their own private political empires on which platform they waged relentless personal and political war. Present Boards, comprising primarily civil servants and professionals, are not tied down by political, tribal and other influences or considerations, and can, therefore, contribute honestly and intelligently toward efforts to build a prosperous Nigeria.

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the Working Party on Statutory Corporations, State-owned Companies and other related Organizations, the Supreme Commander noted:

'Sufficient time has elapsed to enable an objective judgement to be passed on whether or not these various organizations have creditably satisfied their objectives. 'The spate of public opinion', observed His Excellency Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, 'in the last five years and more provides valuable evidence to support the view that most of these organizations have failed to fulfil their expectations though few have given indications of satisfactory performances. Of the several factors that may be adduced, the Supreme Commander continued, 'for this conclusion, the conversion of the corporations and kindred bodies into ASYLUM FOR POLITICAL FAVOURITES is one of the most important'.



The Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi, addressing the Inaugural Meeting of the Working Party on the Unification of Information Services in Nigeria and the Establishment of an Orientation Committee for Nigeria.

His Excellency further explained: 'Inter-Government rivalry in the formulation of economic policies in the First Republic was a contributory factor. The financial irresponsibility inherent in the management of the majority of these public utilities also largely explains their failure'.

'In a nutshell,' His Excellency summed up, 'the Statutory Corporations and Companies fully or partly owned by Government are NOT PLAYING, in any appreciable manner, the role which they were expected to play in the overall development of our national economy'.

COMMITTEES AND STUDY GROUPS

The following Committees and Study Groups have been appointed:

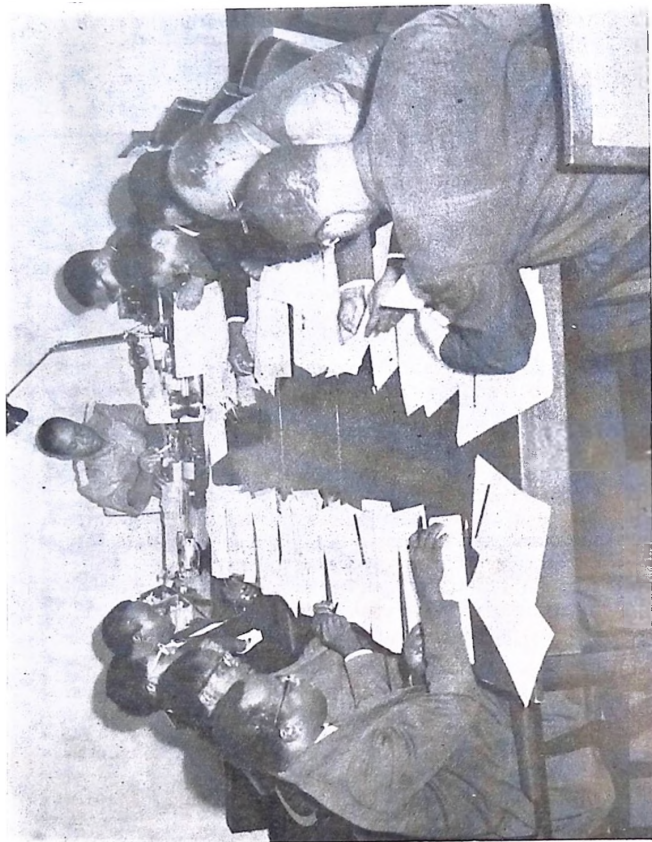
(1) **National Economic Planning Advisory Group:** Nine members. Chairman, Chief S. O. Adebó, Permanent Representative at the U.N.

Terms of Reference:

- (a) Advice on harmonious development of economy;
- (b) review of post-independence economic progress;
- (c) identification of critical points requiring urgent government action or modification of existing policies; making of recommendations on necessary action;
- (d) consideration of future of the economy and advice on direction of long-run economic policies.

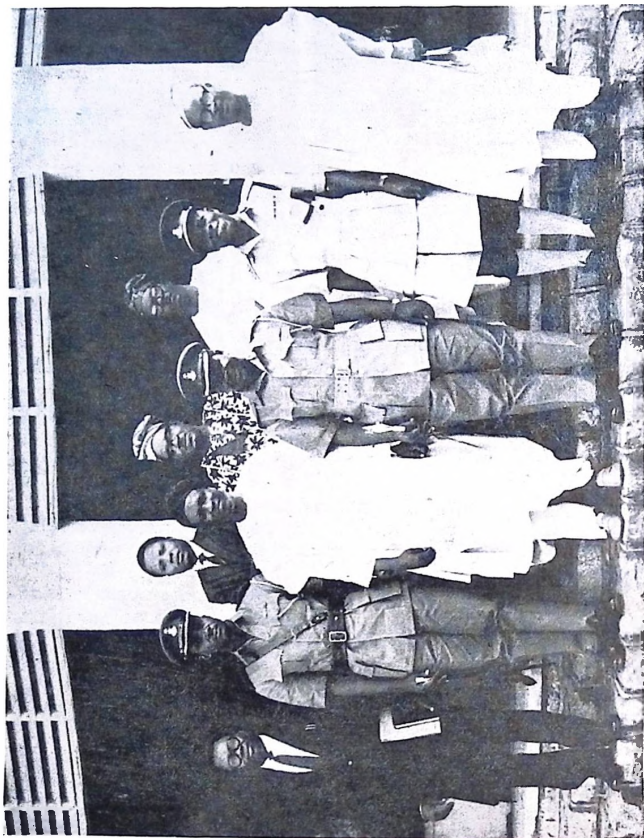
(2) **National Unity:**

- (a) **One-man Judicial Services Committee** (Justice S. P. J. Q. Thomas, retired Chief Justice, Mid-West Provinces) to be assisted by working papers from eminent jurists and judges on:
 - (i) how regionalization of the Judiciary has furthered regionalism and allied problems;
 - (ii) problems of and solutions for reverting to a unified Judicial Service; personnel;



The Military Governor of the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria, Lieutenant-Colonel Odumegwu-Ojukwu performs multifarious duties geared towards social and economic welfare of his people. Here, the Governor at the head of the table presides at an Executive Council meeting at State House, Enugu.

- (iii) retention of Customary Courts system under dual or comprehensive unified judicial system.
- (iv) necessity for having an intermediate National Court of Appeal in Nigeria.
- (b) **One-man Committee on Public Services in Nigeria**
Mr F. C. Nwokedi, ex-Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
 - (i) to investigate the desirability or otherwise on ONE CIVIL SERVICE for Nigeria.
- (c) **Eight-man nation-widely selected Committee on Statutory Corporations, State-owned Companies and Related Organization in Nigeria:** headed by Mr M. O. Ani, Chairman National Electoral Commission. It will examine:
 - (i) relations between corporations, government and public; relations between state-owned companies and government including fundamental principles that should govern them;
 - (ii) reorganization and reorientation of corporations and state-owned companies with a view to increasing their efficient operations;
 - (iii) reorientation of corporation's financial and economic arrangements to play a more constructive role in the planning and influencing of the national economy;
 - (iv) the control of expenditure of corporations and state-owned companies, taking their procedure for awarding contracts into account;
 - (v) the internal improvement and efficient working of corporations;
 - (vi) composition and size of corporation Boards and quality and tenure of office of Board Chairman and members;
 - (vii) relative position of Chairman and Chief Executive or General Manager of Corporations and the advisability or otherwise of combining the two offices.



The Military Governor of the Western Provinces, Lieutenant-Colonel F. Adekunle Fajuyi and the West Executive

Other terms of reference are the desirability of having Statutory Corporations Service Commission; Grading; Problems of mixed Companies owned jointly by Government and Private concerns and recommendations after investigations.

3. National Agricultural Advisory Committee: A 15-man body serviced by four working parties headed by Mr G. A. Ige, Permanent Secretary, National Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The committee will examine the problems of food and nutrition, agriculture-based industries, agricultural exports and institutional framework and agricultural organization.

4. Educational Services Study Group: A nine-man set-up with Chief J. O. Udoji, Secretary to the Military Governor, Eastern Provinces, as chairman. The Group's tasks include problems facing primary and secondary education and how regionalism has accentuated them; national and unified secondary and primary school educational policy; type and content of appropriate primary and secondary education at this stage of Nigeria's development in connection with available financial resources and employment opportunities; and implications and feasibility of the much-talked-of Universal Free Primary Education.

5. Working Party on Unification of Information Services and Orientation Committee for Nigeria: An 18-man body with Mr A. I. Wilson, ex-Secretary to the Military Governor Mid-West Provinces, as Chairman. The Party's terms of reference include feasibility of unification of Information Services and allied problems; Establishment of Orientation Committee for Nigeria and Recommendations.

6. Constitutional Review Committee: A nine-man body headed by Dr T. O. Elias, Dean of Lagos Law School, to investigate which type of Constitution will be suitable to the political needs of the country, unitary, National or mixture of the two.

7. Administrative Machinery for a United Nigeria: This Committee is headed by Mr O. Bateye, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport, Ibadan. It is to investigate the type of administrative machinery suitable for a unitary form of government of Nigeria.

8. Police and Prison: Yusuf Gobir, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Kaduna, was appointed chairman of a committee of fourteen to look into the unification of N.A. and L.G. Police and Prisons with the National System.



One of the many forms of demonstrations in the Republic of Nigeria in favour of the birth of a new Era. Some of the Placards read: 'Welcome our God-sent Redeemer,' etc.

DECREES AND EDICTS

SINCE the assumption of power by the National Military Government and the subsequent suspension or modification of certain sections of the Nigerian Constitution, the new administration has had to rule by Decrees and Edicts. Decrees are issued by the National Military Government while the Military Governors in the Provinces issue Edicts.

In issuing these Decrees and Edicts, the Government had been guided purely on what is best for the smooth administration of, and a return to stability of the nation.

An examination of the Decrees and Edicts should show further that the National Military Government is out to serve all sections of the country selflessly and with a sense of mission unprecedented in the history of Independent Nigeria.

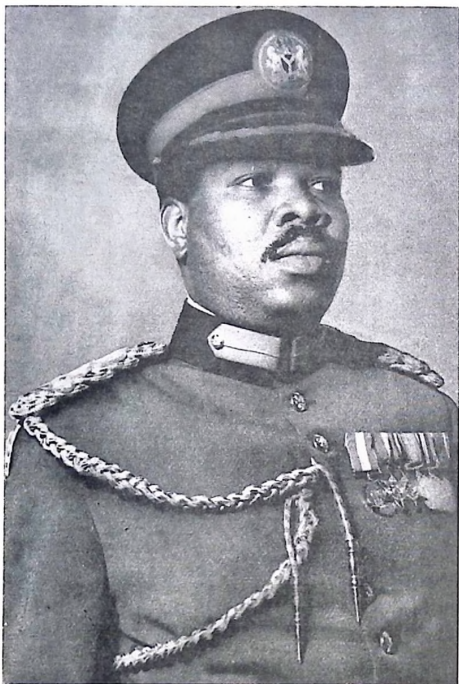
These constructive Decrees and Edicts speak for themselves.

DECREES

Explanatory and Resultant Effect

The Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decrees

The suspension and modification of the Nigerian Constitution was greeted with mass jubilation. The offices of President, Prime Minister, Premiers, Ministers and members of Parliament were suspended. It was immediately felt by all that this would save thousands of pounds for the nation, and for the first time in six years, the nation was rid of political bitterness which plagued the country at the expense of peace, progress and prosperity.



Brigadier B. Ogundipe, Chief-of-Staff, Supreme Headquarters of the Armed Forces.

The Circulation of Newspapers Decree

Political bitterness and inter-regional lack of confidence had resulted in certain newspapers being banned from circulation. This was a violation of the rights of the public to read newspapers of their own choice. The lifting of the ban was most welcome and the future of Press Freedom under the National Military Government was assured.

State Security (Detention of Persons) Decree

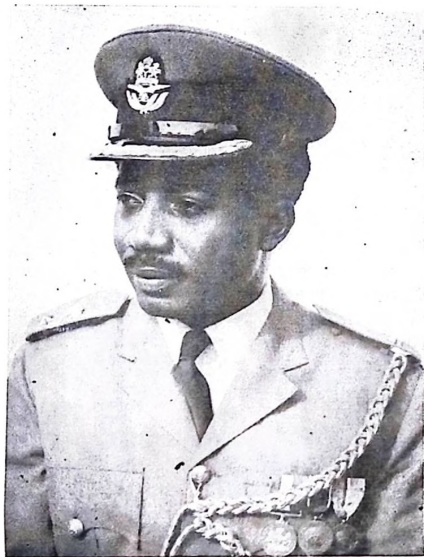
The detention of top politicians, among them Dr M. I. Okpara, Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, Chief R. A. Fani-Kayode, Oba C. D. Akran, Chief A. A. Adeyi, Dr S. O. Onabamiro, Chief M. N. Ugochukwu, Dr G. C. Mbanugo, Chief P. O. Nwoga, Chief T. O. S. Benson, was a major step aimed at ensuring the end of abuse of office, corruption, and insuring peaceful atmosphere necessary for national reconstruction. Those detained were alleged to have committed certain offences and their detention was to prevent them from committing further offences.

The Forces Act (Amendment) Decree

In the past, the responsibility for the operational use of each arm of the Forces was vested in Ministers (subject to the Prime Minister's direction) who were free to use the Forces to promote political interests. But with the reconstruction of the Army Council, the Navy Board, the Air Force Council and the vesting of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces — a professional soldier — with the responsibility for the operational use of the Forces, the public felt relieved.



Commodore J. E. A. Wey,
Head of the Nigerian Navy.



Lt.-Col. G. T. Kurubo,
Head of the Nigerian Air
Force.

The Prisons (Control Decree)

Native Authority and Local Government prisons were under political control in the past and, therefore, constituted another weapon of victimising political opponents. This decree came as a great relief, more especially, to those whose positions in the society exposed them to political vendetta.

The High Court of Lagos (Amendment Decree)

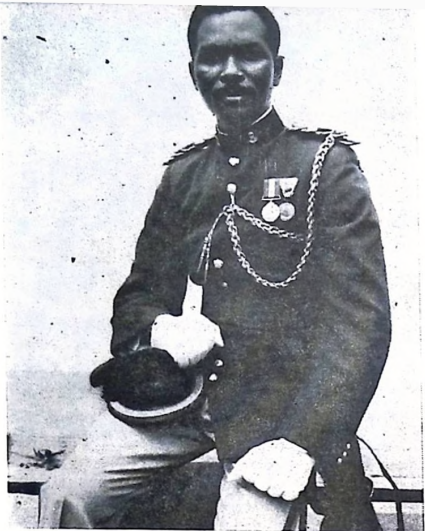
Previously, prosecutors could not appeal against High Court decisions in criminal cases. But with this decree, offenders—no matter how highly placed—could no longer escape punishment because the prosecution could always appeal to the Supreme Court.

Rent Control Decree

For many years, the masses of the people of Nigeria had grumbled over the high rent in the cities and big towns to no avail. The reduction of 2s. in the £ on rent on every room throughout the country was received with great joy by everybody. The promise by the National Military Government to deal with the matter once and for all, was equally very much welcome.

The Indian Hemp Decree

A drastic reduction in the peddling of this heinous weed was noted almost immediately after this decree providing the death penalty and long jail sentences for offenders. The good name of Nigeria was thereby preserved from unscrupulous agents who had stood to benefit from the ruin of other peoples' health.



Lt.-Col. Y. Gowan, Chief-of-Staff of the Nigerian Army.



L. O. Edet Esq.,
Inspector-General of Police.

The Post Office (Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree

Nigerian Post Offices had been one of the most controversial arms of Government, and with this decree the Department was reorganized and geared towards maximum efficiency by the establishment of the Posts and Telegraphs into a separate Department of the Ministry of Communications with experts given sufficient powers to initiate improvements.

The Legal Education (Amendment) Decree

Law Students as well as their parents and dependants welcomed the reduction of the required period of practical training after obtaining their degrees. This reduced considerably, the financial burden on those concerned and made the profession of law attractive once again to potential law students.

The Lagos City Council (Dissolution) Decree

The dissolution of the Lagos City Council, run on political party basis, was not unexpected because the Government had banned all forms of political activities. Furthermore, the Lagos City Council was the only remaining body in which politicians were still left to manage the affairs of the people. With the dissolution, the people of Lagos were happy that like in the other parts of the country, political activities which influenced all major decisions in the past, came to an end to give room to the necessary atmosphere for the work of reconstruction.



Mr Kam Selem, Deputy
Inspector-General of
Police.



Major M. O. Johnson, Ad-
ministrator for Lagos.

The University of Lagos Act (Amendment) Decree

In the past, political jobbery had eaten so deeply into Nigerian life that appointments to important institutions such as Universities were not exempted from being influenced by tribalism, nepotism and favouritism. With the dissolution of the old Provisional Council, and the subsequent appointment of new members—all of them appointed purely on merit—the people were satisfied that the National Military Government was out to ensure that Nigeria's high institutions of learning enjoyed nothing but the best of reputation.

Banking Amendment Decree 1966

The decree empowers the National Military Government to order investigation into the accounts of persons, company or any association where the Head of the National Military Government has reasonable cause to suspect transaction with any bank such as may involve the offences of bribery, corruption, extortion or abuse of office.

Banking Amendment decree has been very popular with the public. This is because it will help to clear the air about reports of corruption or questionable acquisition of property and misappropriation of public funds often made against the erstwhile politicians.

The Probates (Re-Sealing) Decree

The ten sections of this decree cover the re-sealing of probates and letters of administration granted in Commonwealth countries, the re-sealing of probates and letters of administration granted in a former Region of Nigeria, the conditions to be fulfilled before re-sealing, the admissibility of duplicate or copy of probate, security for payment of debts, effect of re-sealing, the rules of court, interpretation, and the repeal of erstwhile Probate (Re-sealing) Act.

The Supplementary Appropriation (1965-6) Decree 1966

This decree increased the total amounts of Section 1 of Appropriation (1965-6) Act 1965 by £293,500.

The Special Constable Decree 1966

The decree modernizes the law relating to the Nigerian Special Constabulary by repealing the Special Constable Act 1959, and replacing it with a decree to make the special constabulary part of the Nigeria Police Force.

The Appropriation Decree 1966

This decree appropriates the sum of £76,720,040 for the expenditure of the National Military Government from Consolidated Revenue Fund for 1966-67.

Public Order Decree 1966

Decree No. 33

This decree, with effect from 24th May, 1966, dissolved a number of political parties, tribal unions and cultural organizations; it also prohibited the formation of new political associations, banned party slogans, flags, insignia, emblems, etc. The decree also empowered the Police to deal with certain offences and the Military Government to dissolve more tribal unions or cultural organizations in a district or town other than those outlined in the schedule.



In continuation of his tour to government departments and institutions, the Military Governor of Western Nigeria, Lt.-Col. Fajuyi visited the University of Ibadan, the University College Hospital and the Adeoyo Hospital. Picture shows the Military Governor of Western Nigeria, Lt.-Col. Fajuyi being welcomed to the campus of Ibadan University by cheering students.

With the dissolution, prohibition and banning of all political organizations, tribal unions and cultural societies, a great majority of which had been promoting divisive tendencies such as tribalism, nepotism and regionalism in the past, Nigeria has received a clean slate with which to start afresh. By prohibiting the formation of any new political party until 17th January, 1969, the National Military Government has given the nation a long breathing space within which to recover from the shocking and choking abuses of the past, forge ahead with national reconstruction programme and also pave the way for a return to a cleaner civilian rule.

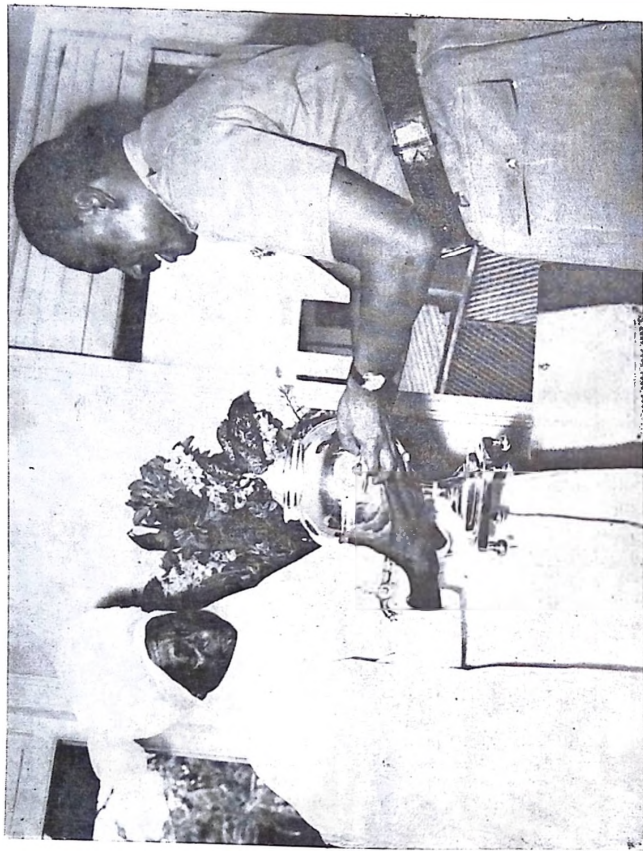
This decree was jubilantly accepted by Nigerians and described by many as a step in the right direction among the many endeavours of the National Military Government to create ONE UNITED NIGERIA.

Included in the schedule of proscribed political parties or associations, tribal and cultural organizations are the following;

POLITICAL SOCIETIES OR ASSOCIATIONS

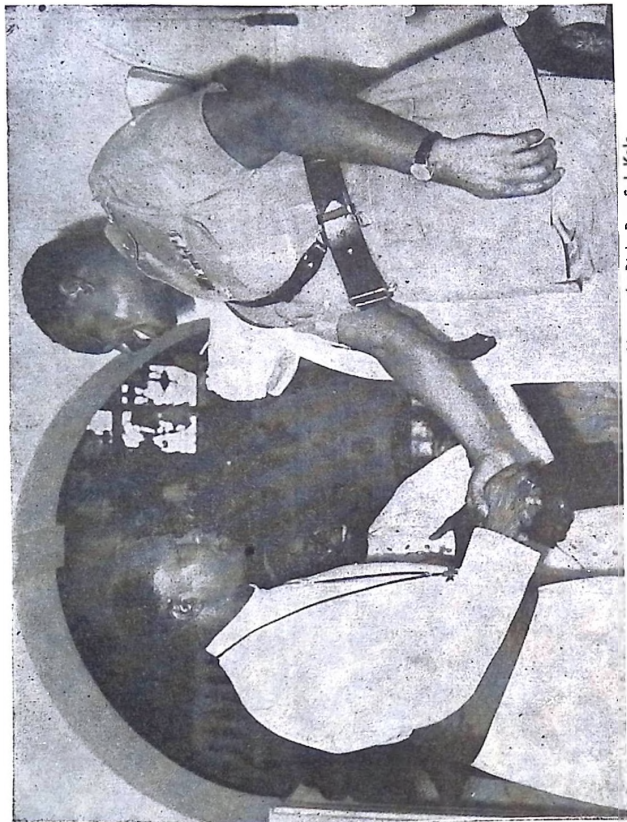
1. Action Group.
2. Afenmai Peoples' Congress.
3. Awo National Brigade.
4. Bonny Youth Movement.
5. Calabar Emancipation League.
6. Calabar, Ogoja, Rivers State Movement.
7. Common Peoples' Party of Nigeria.
8. Communist Party of Nigeria.
9. Democratic Party of Nigeria.
10. Dynamic Party.
11. Eastern Nigeria Liberation Movement.
12. Eastern Peoples' Congress.
13. Ghana Nigerian Socialist Group.
14. Habe Peoples' Party.
15. Ibadan Crusaders of Freedom.
16. Ijumu Progressive Union.
17. Ilorin Talaka Parapo.

18. Kalabari Peoples' Congress.
19. Kano Peoples' Party.
20. Kano State Movement.
21. Lagos Citizens Rights Protection Council.
22. Lagos and Colony Peoples' Congress.
23. Lagos Separate State Movement.
24. League of Northern Yorubas.
25. Mabolaje Party.
26. Middle Belt Congress of Nigeria.
27. Middle Belt Peoples' Party.
28. Mid-West Democratic Front.
29. Mid-West Youth Association.
30. Moslem Peoples' Party.
31. Movement for Colonial Freedom.
32. Muslim United Party.
33. National Convention of Nigerian Citizens.
34. National Emancipation League.
35. National Youth Council of Nigeria.
36. National Youth Front.
37. Niger Delta Congress.
38. Niger Delta Volunteer Service.
39. Nigerian Communist Party.
40. Nigerian Council for Peace.
41. Nigerian Labour Party.
42. Nigerian Marxist Group in Germany (GDR).
43. Nigerian National Alliance.
44. Nigerian National Democratic Party.
45. Nigerian National Youth Brigade.
46. Nigerian Peoples' Party—The New Nigeria.
47. Nigerian Socialist Group.
48. Nigerian Workers' Liberation Movement.
49. Nigerian Youth Congress.
50. Northern Elements Freedom Organization.
51. Northern Elements Progressive Union.
52. Northern Elements Women's Association.
53. Northern Opposition United Party.



A gift from the Supreme Commander to the Sultan of Sokoto, when the latter visited the Supreme Commander at State House, Lagos.

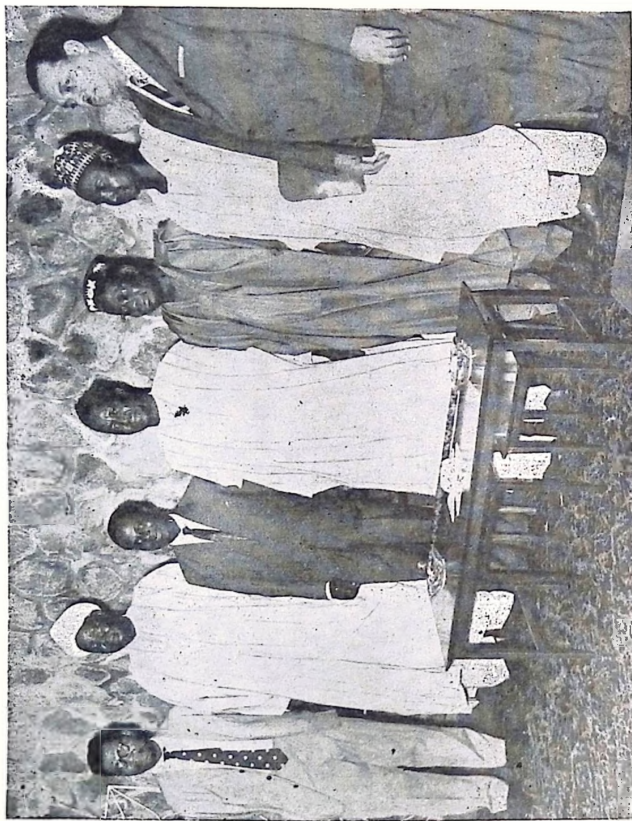
54. Northern Peoples' Congress.
55. Northern Peoples' Congress Youth Association.
56. Northern Progressive Front.
57. Northern United Party.
58. Northern Youth Movement.
59. Okpara Youth Brigade.
60. Oshun United Party.
61. Oyo United Party.
62. Peoples Front.
63. Peoples Progressive Front.
64. Republican Party.
65. Rivers State Movement.
66. Socialist Labour Party.
67. Socialist Movement of Nigeria.
68. Socialist Party of Nigeria.
69. Socialist Workers and Farmers Party.
70. Socialist Youths of Nigeria.
71. Tarka Youth Pioneers.
72. Tiv State Party.
73. United Action Committee.
74. United Middle Belt Congress.
75. United National Independence Party.
76. United Progressive Grand Alliance Youth Front.
77. United Peoples' Party.
78. United Progressive Grand Alliance.
79. United Working Peoples' Party of Nigeria.
80. Zikist Movement.
81. Zikist National Vanguard.



Major-General Aguyi-Ironsi and Anglican Bishop of Lagos, the Right Rev. S. I. Kale

TRIBAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

1. Bornu State Union.
2. Egbe Atunluse Ibadan.
3. Egbe Igbomina Parapo.
4. Egbe Omo Oduduwa.
5. Egbe Omo Olofin.
6. Egbe Omo Yoruba.
7. Egbe Yoruba Parapo.
8. Ekiti Northern.
9. Ekiti Parapo.
10. Ekiti Progressive Union.
11. Ibadan Parapo.
12. Ibibio State Union.
13. Ibo State Union.
14. Ibo Youth Congress.
15. Ibo Youth League.
16. Idoma Tribal Union.
17. Igbirra Tribal Union I and II
18. Ijaw Progressive Union.
19. Kajola Society.
20. Lagos Aborigines Society.
21. Oganiru Society.
22. Okka Society.
23. Oshun Parapo.
24. Otu-Edo.
25. Oyo Parapo.
26. Yoruba State Union.



The Nigerian goodwill mission which left Lagos recently met the Sudanese Premier, Mohammed Ahmed Mahgoub and delivered a message from the Head of the National Military Government. The mission, headed by Sir Kashim Ibrahim, Adviser to the Military Governor for the Northern Provinces, was due to have further talks in Khartoum before flying to Addis Ababa. Picture taken at the Lagos Airport, Ikeja, shortly before their departure shows from left: Father Martins, Malam Mohammed Dungus, Mr Kunle Ojora, Sir Kashim Ibrahim (leader), Mr C. C. Mojekwu, Malam S. D. Katsina and Mr B. K. Sutherland.

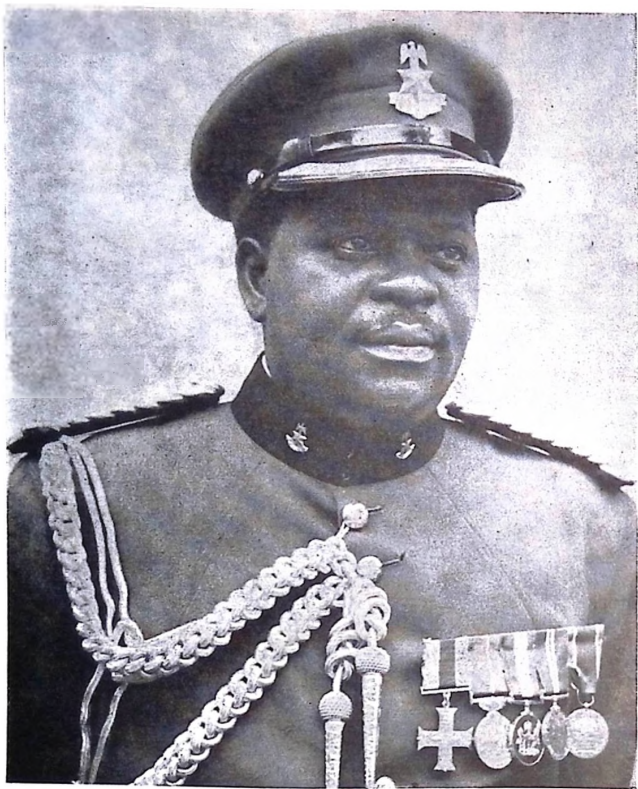
**The Constitution (Suspension and Modification) No. 5
Decree 1966**

Decree No. 34

This decree reconstituted and unified the Federation of Nigeria into the REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA. Consequently, the Federal Military Government and the Federal Executive Council became the NATIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT and the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL respectively. The Federal Territory of Lagos was renamed Capital Territory. Other measures included in the decree covered the Unification of the Public Services, the Appointment of officers in the National Public Service and the appointment of members of Police Service Commission.

This decree helped to break once and for all the regional barriers of the past. It also ensured equality among the various provinces of the Republic, removing in effect the feeling of superiority by size or population.

The decree was unanimously named by Nigerians as the 'UNITY DECREE'. Others regarded it as perhaps the most momentous decree yet passed and also as the decree that has most eloquently emphasised the intentions or determination of the National Military Government to make one nation out of Nigeria.



West Military Governor, Lt.-Col. F. Adekunle Fajuyi

WESTERN PROVINCES EDICTS

The Provincial Authority Areas (Appointment of Administrators) Edict

This edict appointed the Local Government Adviser of every provincial authority as Administrator for that area in the Western Provinces.

It resulted in automatic removal of the Management Committee of the areas which were made up of political appointees. This restored peace in most places where political bitterness had been raging over the months.

The Statutory Corporation (Revocation of Appointments and Transfer of Functions Edict)

It revoked the appointments of the Chairmen, Executive Directors and other members of Statutory Corporations in the Provinces. These Corporations had been fertile areas for finding jobs for political supporters. The revocation of the appointments was popular with the people. It also helped the Corporations to plan profitable policies instead of bowing to political and personal interests.

Western Nigeria (Executive Committee) Edict

This established the Western Nigeria Executive Committee. The Committee will perform such functions that were earlier carried out by the regional legislature.

Its members include the Military Governor who is the Chairman, some Permanent Secretaries, the Police Commissioner and another Military representative.



The Military Governor of Western Nigeria, Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi acknowledging cheers from a large crowd in front of the Olubadan's House, after he had paid a courtesy visit to the Oba.

The Council of Obas and Chiefs (Appointment) Edict

New officials and members of the Committee of the Council of Obas and Chiefs were appointed.

These new appointments restored the confidence of the public in the Council of Obas and Chiefs. This is because the Council had been used by politicians in furthering their personal and party interests.

The Statutory Authorities (Revocations of Appointment) Edict

This revoked the appointments of Chairmen and members of those authorities. As a result, new officials, mainly civil servants, were appointed. The new appointees are better qualified and determined to pursue the national policy of unity and reconstruction.



A handshake with the Oni of Ife after the meeting with Council of Obas at the Government House.



Above: The Military Governor of Western Provinces, Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, looking at placard during his visit to Badagry.

Below: During his visit to Government Establishments, the West Military Governor, Lt.-Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi tries his hand on a tractor at the Ministry of Agriculture, Moor Plantation, Ibadan.



NORTHERN PROVINCES

EDICTS 1966

The Statutory Corporations (Miscellaneous) Provisions Edict 1966

This edict terminated the appointments of Chairmen and members of boards of state-owned Corporations in the North.

Many of these were political appointees whose aims were to maintain both political and personal interests. They were replaced mainly with civil servants who in addition to doing more work receive no pay other than their fixed salaries as civil servants.

Public Holiday Law (Amendment) Edict

The edict abolished the celebration as public holiday of March 15, the anniversary of Self-Government of Northern Nigeria. This was aimed at eliminating an unpleasant aspect of regionalism.

The Official Oaths Law (Amendment) Edict

The official oaths law required all Native Authority Councillors and officials to take the oath of secrecy and Alkalis and Presidents of Native Courts to take a judicial oath. This was designed to ensure that justice is dispensed without fear or favour.

Appropriation Edict

This edict provided the sum of £33,660,345 for the services of the Northern Provinces for the year 1966-7.

The Supplementary Appropriation (1965-6) Edict

This makes further supplementary provisions for a sum of £6,725,670 for the services of the Northern Provinces for the year 1965-6.



The Military Governor for the Northern Provinces, Lt.-Col. Hassan Usman Katsina



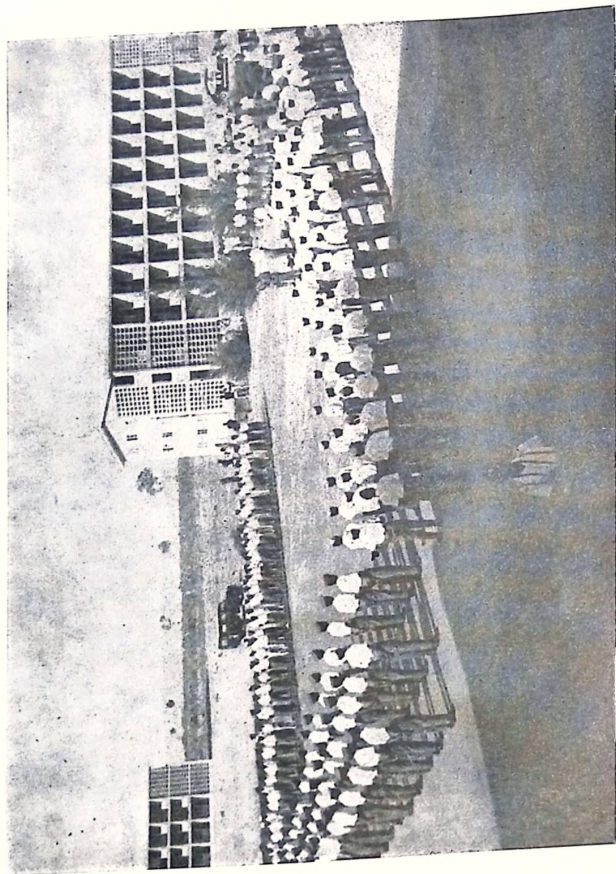
The Military Governor for the Northern Provinces, Lieutenant-Colonel Hassan Usman Katsina, has visited the Veterinary Field Station at Mando Road, Kaduna. Here the Governor is pictured having a close look at a two-day old chick at the poultry section of the station.

EASTERN PROVINCES EDICTS 1966

Abolition of Provincial Assemblies

This first edict issued by the Military Governor of Eastern Provinces abolished all the Provincial Assemblies.

It was necessary to abolish them so as to correct the feeling of sectionalism and eradicate a system of job-for-the-boys at the expense of the taxpayers. As part of other money saving measures, all Provincial Commissioners were ordered to vacate official quarters and surrender all official cars to the provincial secretaries.



The Military Governor for Northern Nigeria, Lt.-Col. Hassan Usman Katsina recently visited Army units in Kaduna.
The Lt.-Col. is seen addressing members of the NAF Tactical Training base.

Regional Public Service Edict

The Public Service Commission was no longer responsible for appointment and promotion of the Senior Staff in the Public Services. The Commission is now to make recommendations to the Military Government. This step is aimed at checking corruption in appointing only favoured or politically sponsored candidates to the senior service posts of the East.

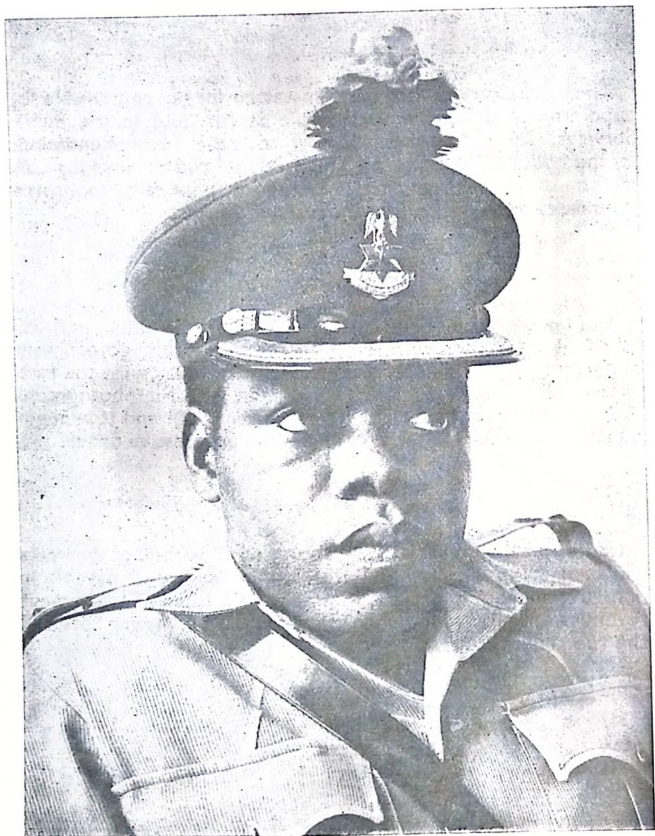
Removal of Photographs' Edict

The photographs of the former President and other political functionaries were ordered to be removed from government buildings and offices so as to effect complete break with the past.

The public welcomed their replacement with the photographs of the Head of the National Military Government and it brought home to them the existence of a new and progressive order.

Rent for Government Quarters (Senior Service) Edict

Rents payable by civil servants occupying Government Quarters was brought in line with the present costs and rents payable in non-government quarters. This has increased Government revenues as well as reduced, no matter how little, the gap between the top civil servants and the low income group.



The Military Governor for the Eastern Provinces, Lt.-Col. C. Odumegwu-Ojukwu

Local Government Council (Dissolution) Edict 1966

All Local Government Councils in the East were dissolved. As these councils were previously run on political party basis, their dissolution resulted in reduced political influence necessary for national reconstruction.

Government Companies (Reconstitution) Edict

The appointments of former Chairmen and Directors of Government companies were revoked. This brought the enterprises concerned into competent hands and the affairs of the organizations have been streamlined and more profits are expected.

Statutory Corporations (Reconstitution of Boards Edicts)

All former political appointments to the Statutory Corporations were revoked. The effect has been that more competent men were appointed. The new policy of selecting capable men for public positions was generally acclaimed (as a) departure from the past when appointments to these bodies were based mainly on party political patronage as well as personal interests.

University of Nigeria Edict 1966

The amended University of Nigeria Law empowered the Military Governor to appoint new members of the University Council which include: Sir Francis Akanu Ibiam, Chairman; a representative of the Military Governor's office; the Rt. Rev. L. M. Uzodike; the Rt. Rev. Arinze; Mr Justice A. N. Aniogolu, and Mr N. B. Graham-Douglas.



His Royal Highness, the Oba
of Benin, Chancellor, Ah-
madu Bello University,
Zaria.



His Royal Highness, the
Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado
Bayero, Chancellor, Uni-
versity of Nigeria, Nsukka.

University of Nigeria (Revocation of Certain Contracts) Edict 1966

The East Military Governor revoked forthwith and declared null and void, all contracts for accommodation previously entered into between the former council of the University and any other person or persons. The new council was empowered to enter into new contracts.

Public Holidays Edict

The Public Holidays Law is amended to cancel the observance of March 27, as Youth Day. This is aimed at maintaining a uniform system because the observance of that holiday was peculiar to Eastern Nigeria. It was also a reply to popular public outcry of too many holidays, which reduce working days and thus affect the economy of the country.

Second Supplementary Appropriation Edict

This supplementary provision was made to enable the new Government continue the services of the Eastern Provinces for the year 1965-6 and to recover from contingencies fund and capital Revotes authorized during the same year.

Revocation of the Appointment of the Chancellor of the University of Nigeria

This empowered the Military Governor to appoint a new Chancellor of the University of Nigeria. The Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero was appointed as the new Chancellor. This impressed both the students and the public because for the first time an attempt is made for inter-regional co-operation in the university administration. In the past, chancellors have always come from the region where the university is situated. The new approach is a march towards unity through co-operation in education.



Above:

The Military Governor of the Eastern Provinces, Lt.-Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu visited the £300,000 matchets factory, owned by Messrs Crocodile Matchets (Nigeria) Limited during his tour of Port Harcourt Province. He was welcomed by the managing director of the company, Mr P. G. Dudney who informed the Governor that the factory will eventually produce up to 1,800,000 matchets per year—enough to satisfy the whole Nigeria market. The company, he said, would employ up to 150 Nigerians when in full production. In the above picture, Mr Dudney shows Lt.-Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu the intricate processes through which a matchet passes before it is made.

Below:

The Military Governor of the Eastern Provinces has been touring Ministries and Corporations and other Government establishments in Enugu to acquaint himself with their operations. The Military Governor is seen here at the Internal Revenue.



Education Law (Amendment) Edict 1966

This provided that proprietors of private schools must obtain the approval and consent of the Military Governor in writing. This was widely acclaimed because of the menace of mushroom schools, some of which the former politicians set up for commercial gains. As a result, some unauthorized schools had to be closed down.

Provocation of State Lands Edict

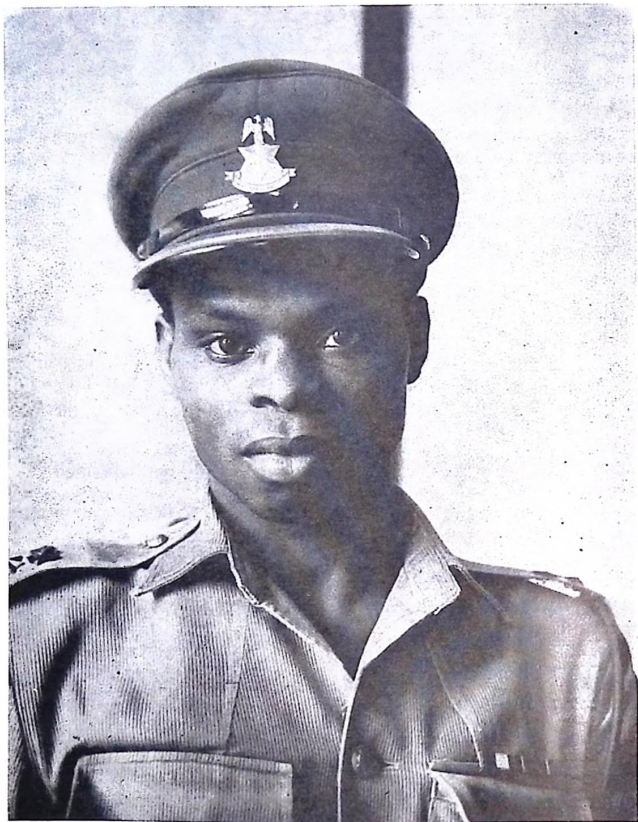
Private persons who had been squatting on or corruptly obtained State lands were ordered out. With the loss of their rights to the land, ownership reverted to the Government. Because it had been reasonably suspected that the former allocations of the lands were improper, the order met with public approval not only in the Eastern Provinces but all over Nigeria.

Pool Betting (Control and Taxation) Edict 1966

This edict prohibits unlicensed pool betting business and also provides for the taxation of all moneys placed as stakes. This measure is necessary in order to protect the public from unauthorized and fraudulent business-men who take stakes without paying dividends. It will also help the Government to collect more revenue.

Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Edict 1966-7

This edict authorizes the expenditure of £46,884,250 for the services of the Provinces for 1966-7 financial year. The services include those rendered by the Government departments and some research and extension work in agriculture.



The Military Governor for the Mid-West Provinces, Lt.-Col. David A. Ejoor

MID-WESTERN PROVINCES EDICTS 1966

Establishment of Executive Committee (Edict)

It set up the Executive Committee, suspended board appointments as well as ordered the closure of Agent-General's Office in London.

This edict brought all administrative powers of the area into the hands of the Provincial Military Government.

This was popularly received because most of the boards, committees and agencies suspended were considered as a waste of public funds. In most cases appointments to them were not made on the basis of ability and qualifications. The closing down of the office of the Agent-General in London was another step aimed at creating a united Nigeria because Nigeria has today only one High Commissioner in London as against the former practice of each region having its Agent-General to protect regional interests.

Statutory Boards, Corporation and Rubber Commission Edict

Appointments of all former Chairmen and Directors of these bodies were revoked. New members and Chairmen of the Corporations are mostly civil servants who do not receive extra salary in respect of duties performed on the boards. This, in effect, is a way of saving public funds. Also, the exit of the politicians from the boards resulted in greater emphasis on prudence, economy and hard work.

Customary Courts (Suspension of Warrants)

The functions of these courts were transferred to the Magistrate Courts.

The public were very happy because for sometime, most people regarded these courts as weapons of oppression of political opponents. Also their tendency towards injustice and corruption was put in check.

Dissolution of District and Urban Councils Edict

This dissolved all District and Urban Councils in the Mid-West. This in effect brought home to the people that the era of political administration has given way to a new era of national reconstruction. In all cases, the Local Government Adviser of the area was appointed the sole administrator. This did not only lift local government administration above politics, but also resulted in the possibility of executing plans in the best interest of the area instead of being controlled by political and personal interests as was the case in the previous regime.

Meat Inspection Edict

By this the function of inspection of meat was transferred to the Staff of the Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In the past, meat inspection was by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The new arrangement is necessary because it is felt that the officials of the Veterinary Division are better qualified to do the work.



The Military Governor for the Mid-West Provinces, Lt.-Col. David Ejoor examining Rubber at the Ikpoba Rubber factory, Benin-City.



The Military Governor for the Mid-West Provinces,
David Ejoor at the Benin General Hospital.

Owegbe Juju and Society (Prohibition) Edict

This edict prohibits the worship or invocation of the 'Owegbe Juju', or any other associated cult or use of charms, magic and any article related to the society.

The ban is a popular move because the cult had been a source of anxiety to the people of the Mid-West. Most of the people were forced to pay heavy sums of money in order to take the oath of 'Owegbe Juju' because life and property were unsafe for any non-member. This state of affairs forced the former Government to order an inquiry into the operation, worship and invocation of the cult. It was the findings of the inquiry that compelled the Military Governor to ban the society. With the ban, life and property have become safe. Farmers, traders and business-men now carry out their jobs without fear of molestation.

1966-7 Appropriation Edict

The Edict appropriated £8,359,020 for the recurrent expenditure and £6,512,330 for the capital expenditure of the Mid-Western Nigeria for the 1966-7 financial year.



Some students demonstrating in favour of the new regime

DIARY OF EVENTS UP TO END OF APRIL

Saturday, Jan. 15

- The Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, reported kidnapped and taken to unknown destination.
- Parliament adjourned.

Sunday, Jan. 16

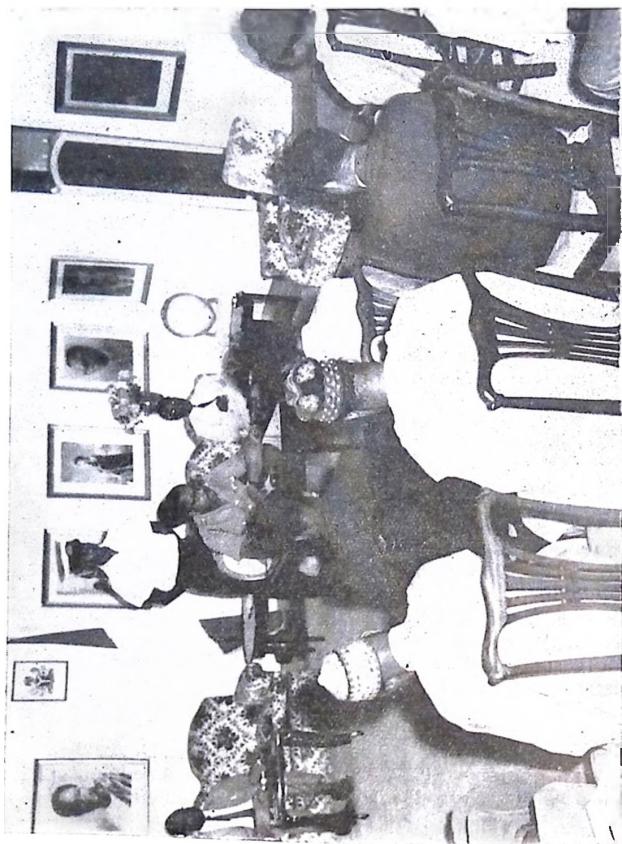
- Federal Cabinet unanimously agreed to hand over the Government of the Federation voluntarily to the Armed Forces. Broadcasts by Dr Nwafor Orizu, Acting President and His Excellency, Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi, Supreme Commander and Head of the Federal Military Government to the Nation.

Monday, Jan. 17

- Press Conference by Supreme Commander.
- Statements by various national organizations including political parties supporting the hand-over.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

- Provincial Military Governors appointed: Lt.-Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu, (East), Lt.-Col. Francis Adekunle Fajuyi (West), Lt.-Col. David A. Ejoor (Mid-West), Major (later promoted Lt.-Col.) Hassan Katsina (North).
- More support for new regime by political parties and affiliates; the Oba of Lagos.
- Lagos University students demonstrated in support of new regime.
- Mr A. K. Disu, former Secretary to ex-President, Dr Azikiwe, and Mr S. O. Wey, former Secretary to the Prime Minister, were designated, Principal Secretary, State House and Secretary to the Military Government.



The Head of the National Military Government, His Excellency Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, addressing Newspaper, Radio and TV Editors. Sitting behind the Supreme Commander in the picture are the Secretary to the National Executive Council, Mr S. O. Wey (left) and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Mr Howson-Wright (right).

Wednesday, Jan. 19

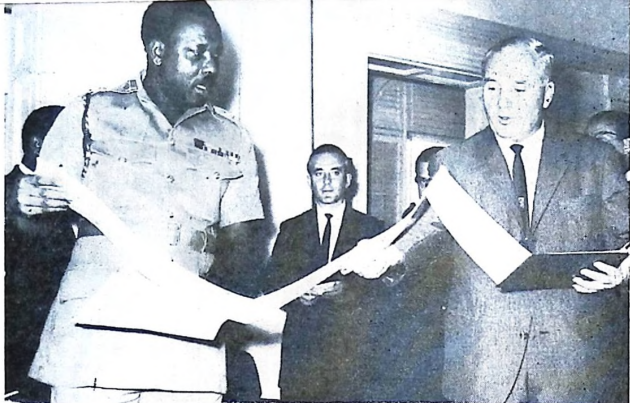
- Major (later rated Lt.-Col.) Hassan assumed office in the Northern Provinces.
- Ministers in the Western Provinces reported evacuating official quarters.
- East Provincial Governor, Lt.-Col. Ojukwu in the North for talks with North Provincial Governor.

Thursday, Jan. 20

- Military Governors conferred with His Excellency, Major-General Ironsi.
- Sir Kashim Ibrahim, ex-Governor, Northern Region, accepted post of Adviser to Military Governor, Northern Provinces.
- Almost all Ministers in the North were reported to have vacated official quarters.
- More messages of support from the Nigerian Labour Party, the Oba of Benin, the Methodist Church of Nigeria, Niger Delta Congress and various trade union organizations.
- The Prime Minister was still reported missing.



Ironsi and U.K. Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Anthony Greenwood, at State House, Lagos.



The Russian Ambassador in Nigeria, Mr I. A. Romanov, presenting photographs of the moon by 'Luna 9' to the Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Agulyi-Ironsi, on behalf of the Russian Government at State House.

Friday, Jan. 21

- Federal Military Government statement on treaty obligations, financial agreements and other economic policies.
- Appointment of members of Federal Military Government announced. Federal Military Government to consist of Supreme Military Council and Federal Executive Council: functions stated.
- Military Governors returned to the regions: each delivered a message to the people.

Saturday, Jan. 22

- Body of ex-Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, discovered at Mile 27 on the Lagos-Abeokuta Road; flown to home-town, Bauchi, buried at Muslim Cemetery there.
- Three days of official mourning declared as tribute. Eid-el-Fitri.

Sunday, Jan. 23

- Broadcast by His Excellency, the Supreme Commander for co-operation in restoring peace and for work of national reconstruction.

- Flags were flying at half-mast for ex-P.M.
- Burial of Chief Akintola in Ogbomosho on January 22 reported.
- Denis Neeld, AP Correspondent, departed.
- Lt.-Col. George T. Kurubo of the Army appointed Acting Commander of the Air Force.
- Certain water installations ordered to commence full operations by Lt.-Col. F. A. Fajuyi, West Military Governor.

Monday, Jan. 24

- North Military Governor visited Military installations in Kaduna, addressed officers.

Sunday, Feb. 20

- The Military Governor of Western Nigeria, Lt.-Col. Fajuyi, revoked the appointment of the chairmen and members of a number of statutory authorities and tribunals.
- At an interview in Enugu, Lt.-Col. Ojukwu promised students delegation from University of Nigeria, Nsukka that a new Chancellor will be appointed for the University.
- In the North, the Military Governor, Lt.-Colonel Katsina approved an ex-gratia payment of £16,700 to the Tiv Native Authority 'as goodwill gesture to the Tiv people and a measure of assistance towards the improvement of conditions in their area.'

Monday, Feb. 21

- The Head of the Federal Military Government, Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi, in Press Conference announced that the Military Government had no political affiliation or ambition.
- Three more people were detained in the West: Dr Sanya Onabamiro, former Minister of State; Mr J. O. Adigun, former Minister of Lands, and Mr Adebayo Adeyinka, former Executive Director of the Regional Marketing Board.



Above:

The Military Governor for West Provinces, Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi at the University of Ife staff school.

Below:

Fishing is one of the main occupations of the Mid-West people. This is being encouraged by the Government. The Mid-Western Military Governor is seen examining a fishing net during a tour of parts of the Provinces.



Tuesday, Feb. 22

- Lieutenant-Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi ordered summary dismissal of the Chief Warden of Agodi Prison, Ibadan, Mr D. W. Aiyedun and the Senior Warden for disobeying instructions given in respect of the detainees.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

- Nigeria's ambassadors arrived Lagos for consultations embracing all Nigeria's representatives overseas.

Thursday, Feb. 24

- Sir Francis Ibiem was appointed new Chairman of the Council of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Friday, Feb. 25

- The former President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who had been out of the country since October, 1965, returned.

Saturday, Feb. 26

- A new Provisional Council for the University of Ife was appointed with Chief T. T. Solaru as the Chairman.

Sunday, Feb. 27

- The Head of the Federal Military Government, Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi, entertained to lunch Nigeria diplomats who had been in Lagos for a week's consultations.

Monday, Feb. 28

- The Head of the Federal Military Government appointed three national study groups. They are on National Unity, Constitutional Review and the National Planning Advisory Group.



Peace has been restored so soon after falling over and people were free to engage in recreation once again. Here Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi (extreme left) watch an Athletics Meeting with Mr L. O. Edet Inspector-General of Police, Brigadier B. Ogunjipe and Commodore J. E. A. Wey.

Tuesday, March 1

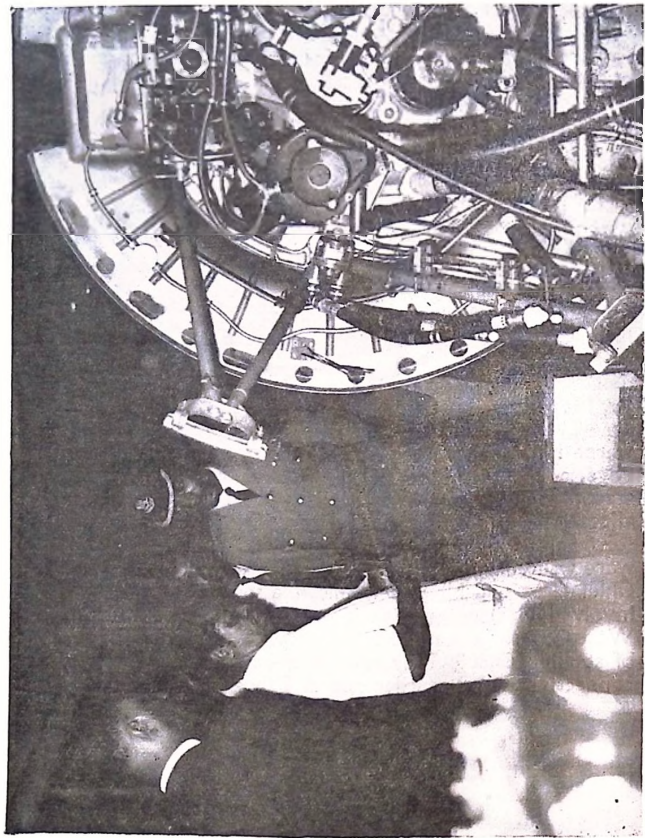
- Professor H. A. Oluwasanmi of the University of Ibadan was appointed a new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ife.
- In Benin, the Military Governor warned that as from March 16 any taxable adult who failed to produce his tax receipt would be dealt with.

Wednesday, March 2

- The Head of the Federal Military Government warned political parties against holding meetings.
- Captain N. M. Soroh was appointed Chief of Staff of the Nigerian Navy.

Friday, March 4

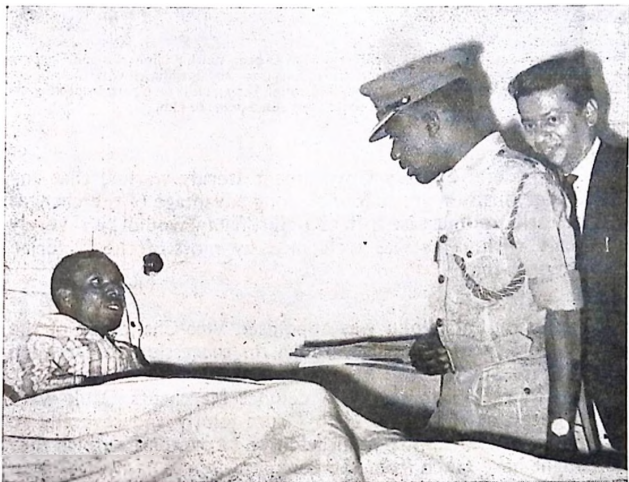
- Three Ministers in the suspended Government of Western Nigeria and a member of the suspended Parliament were arrested and detained by the C.I.D. in connection with allegations of stealing and murder. The three gave themselves up to the Police following an announcement that they were wanted persons. The Police alleged that Chief Layonu, Chief Tifase and Mr S. O. Kamson, a suspended M.P., were involved in an alleged theft of £62,000, property of the West Government and that Prince Awogboro was suspected of stealing £3,800. They said Chief Layonu was wanted in connection with a murder case at Oshogbo.



The Commander of the Nigerian Air Force, Lt.-Col. G. T. Kurubo, on inspection tour of the Nigeria Airways installations at Ikeja. Picture shows Lt.-Col. Kurubo listening to an explanation of how the aircraft engines work.

Saturday, March 5

- Dr Michael Okpara, N.C.N.C. Leader and former East Premier, was among ten leading politicians interviewed today by the Police in Enugu, Ibadan and Lagos respectively for alleged criminal offences yet to be disclosed. The others included Dr K. O. Mbadiwe, former Federal Minister of Trade; Chief T. O. S. Benson, one-time Federal Information Minister and Minister without portfolio; Dr Aaron Ogbonna, former East Commerce Minister; Chief Matthias Ugochukwu, former Chairman, Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, and other Government sponsored enterprises, and Dr Godwin Mbanugo, former Chairman of the Eastern Development Corporation.
- In a decree issued in Lagos dated March 5, 1966, the above politicians including the former Premier, were detained in the interest of State security.



The Military Governor of Northern Provinces, Lt.-Col. Hassan Usman Katsina, visited hospitals in Kaduna. Here Lt.-Col. Hassan is seen at patient's bed-side during his visit to the Kaduna Nursing Home. Behind His Excellency is the Medical Officer in-charge of the hospital, Dr P. H. Ghaveker.



The Military Governor of the Eastern Provinces has been touring Ministries and Corporations and other Government establishments in Enugu to acquaint himself with their operations. The Military Governor at the General Hospital, Enugu. He is seen here inspecting the female ward as a doctor explains a point to him.

Monday, March 28

- The Federal Military Government sternly warned that any trader, firm or group found taking advantage of the changes in tariff to increase prices unjustifiably would be severely dealt with. This was welcomed by most of the Nigerian newspapers.

Tuesday, March 29

- Professor Eni Njoku was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in succession to Dr Glen Taggart.
- All four Directors of the defunct Merchants Bank were ordered at the Lagos High Court jointly and severally to refund £100,425-12s-4d in addition to overdrafts which they might have taken from the Bank.

Wednesday, March 30

- Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi outlined the functions of the National Economic Advisory Group headed by Chief S. O. Adebayo, Nigeria Permanent Representative at the United Nations.
- Twelve out of nineteen former Western Nigeria Ministers, Corporation Chairmen and a party leader charged with conspiracy and stealing £62,045-18s-2d, property of the Western Nigeria Marketing Board.
- The Hamdala Hotel, Kaduna, opened four years ago, is to be put under a new management. Messrs A. G. Leventis are to withdraw from the hotel.

Thursday, March 31

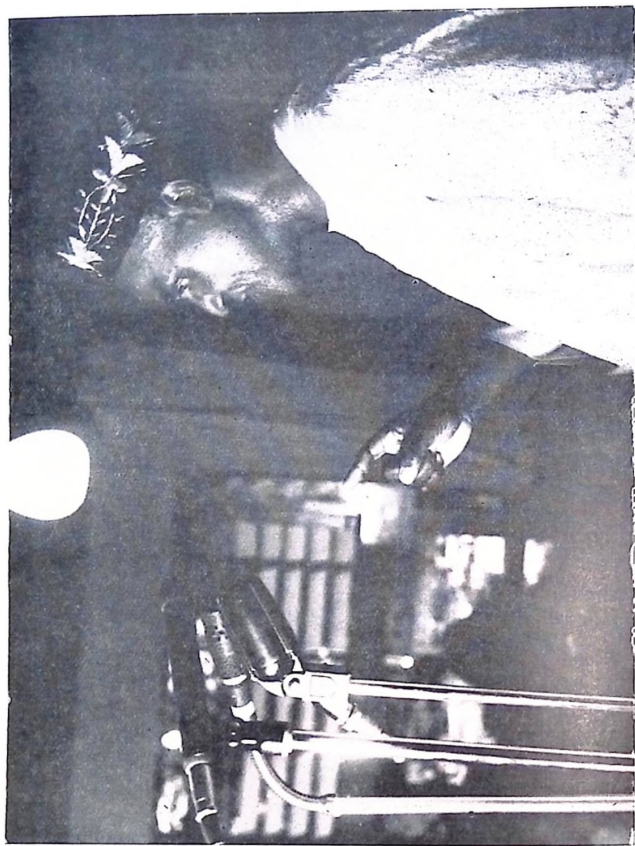
- Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi broadcast to the nation on Nigeria's economy—a day after his meeting with the four Military Governors to consider the 1966-7 recurrent budget.

Friday, April 1

- In a message marking the Moslem Festival of Eid-El-Kabir, the Supreme Commander appealed to the people to refrain from doing anything that might disrupt Nigerian unity.

Saturday, April 2

- All week, Nigerian stars had been leaving for the Dakar World Festival of Negro Arts in which Nigeria was STAR COUNTRY. In a message to the Festival, the Supreme Commander expressed the hope that it 'would help to stimulate and underline those spiritual and cultural values which united the Negro peoples throughout the World'.



Nigeria's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Chief S. O. Adebo, delivering a lecture at the Institute of International Affairs in Lagos, during a short visit to Nigeria.

Sunday, April 10

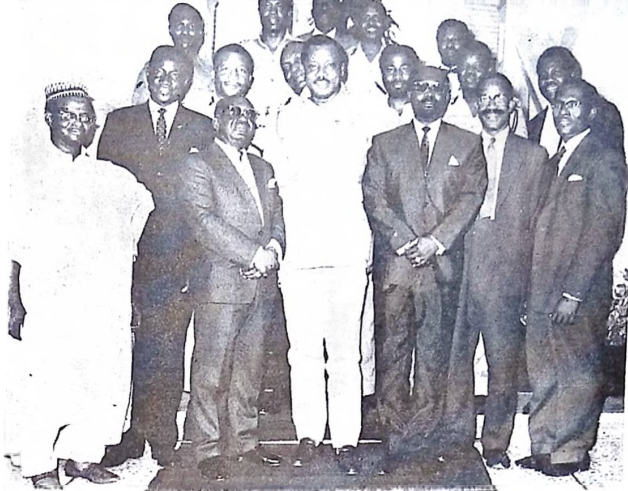
- Nigeria Airways Corporation is to investigate the allegations on the award of a £110,000 contract to an advertising and publicity firm made by the former Minister of Aviation, Dr Jaja Wachukwu, in November, 1965 and other matters connected with an alleged 'deal' of £250,000 offer to Fokker Friendship Aircraft.
- Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, West Military Governor, visited University of Ife.
- Several cars used by Ministers in the suspended Government of Eastern Nigeria were sold at a public auction. A tomato-red 'Impala' used by the ex-Premier, Dr Okpara, was sold for £1,000.



The Inspector-General of Police, Mr Louis Edet presenting a baton to the best all-round recruit at a passing-out parade.



During his visit to the Head of the National Military Government in Lagos, the Sultan of Sokoto, said prayers for the return of peace to Nigeria. Among those present were, the Oba of Lagos and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Rt. Rev. Aggey.



A goodwill delegation sent to Nigeria by the National Liberation Front in Ghana is seen with Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi after a meeting with him at State House. They delivered a note from Lt.-Col. Ankrah, Chairman of the Ghana National Liberation Council.

Monday, April 11

- All the Labour Ministries in Nigeria centralized.
- Some 300 students were moved from the Azikiwe Foundation flats at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. This followed the revocation of a number of contracts signed with the now dissolved Provisional Council of the University.
- Mr James Aluko of the Action Group, who fled to Ghana in 1962, returned to Nigeria. Two other wanted men, Mr S. G. Ikoku and Mr A. Adebajo, both of the A.G., were returned last month and the three were detained in prison.

Tuesday, April 12

- The four Military Governors arrived in Lagos in preparation for a meeting of the Central Executive Council tomorrow to discuss Nigeria's capital expenditure for 1966-7.
- All Government appointments with an initial annual salary of £364 and above would now be handled by the Federal Public Service Commission.



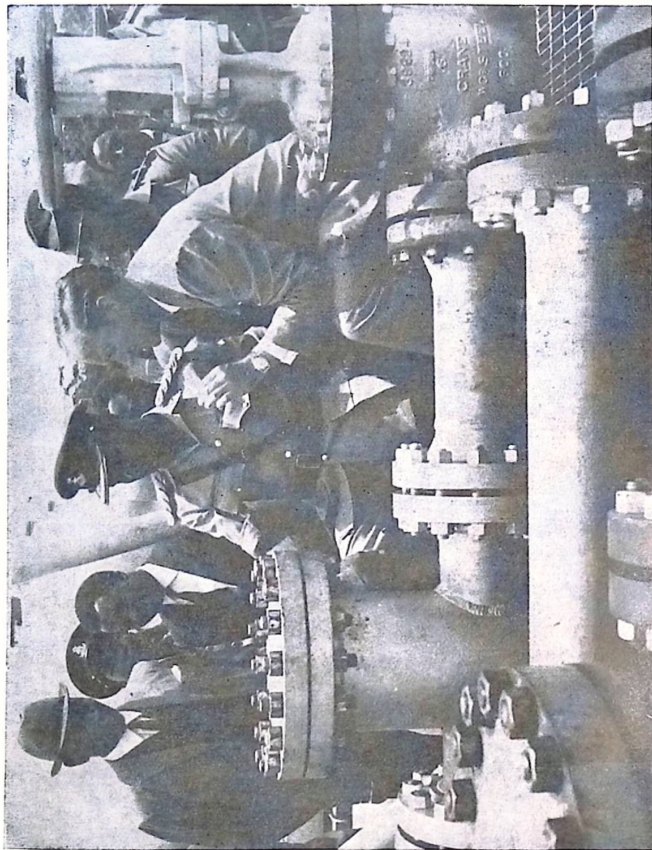
The Military Governor for Eastern Provinces, Lt-Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu, addressed the recent conference on Adult Education at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The Governor (pictured here delivering his speech) stressed government determination to wipe out illiteracy among adult citizens of Nigeria. Lt-Col. Ojukwu was making his first official visit to the University of Nigeria.

Wednesday, April 13

- The Federal Military Government made a grant of £2m. to the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank to help it meet its financial obligations. The World Bank also agreed to grant the bank a loan in foreign currencies equivalent to £6m.
- Two men were gaoled ten years each today for possessing wraps of Indian Hemp. Each was charged under the Indian Hemp Decree No. 19 of 1966.
- Changes of appointments of Permanent Secretaries of the West announced today. Chief T. O. Ejiwumi, Secretary to the Executive Council of the suspended Government, became Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- The Nigerian Government consented to the transfer through Nigeria of Dr Horst Schumann, wanted for war crimes by the West German Government.

Below: The sons-of-the-Police race was a light-hearted event featured during the Police sports at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium recently. The Military Governor, Lt.-Col. Hassan Usman Katsina with all smiles presents the winner with a prize—a ball.





The Military Governor of the Mid-Western Provinces, Lt.-Col. D. A. Ejor, toured Isoko Division recently and visited Shell-BP Installations at Uzere and Olomoro, near Ughelli in Urhobo Division. Here, the Technical Manager, Mr. P. B. Baxendell explains a point to Lt.-Col. Ejor at Uzere Station.



H. H. Adeyinka Oyekan II,
Oba of Lagos. Adviser to
the Military Government
on Lagos Affairs.

Thursday, April 14

- Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia broke his journey to Senegal in Lagos. He was welcomed by Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi, the four Military Governors and Heads of the Armed Forces and Police. The Emperor later drove to State House.
- Mr Anthony Greenwood, British Minister for Overseas Development, who arrived in Nigeria on Tuesday, April 12, announced that Britain was to make a further loan of £2.3m. to Nigeria.
- Dr T. O. Elias, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice in the suspended Federal Government, was appointed new Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lagos.

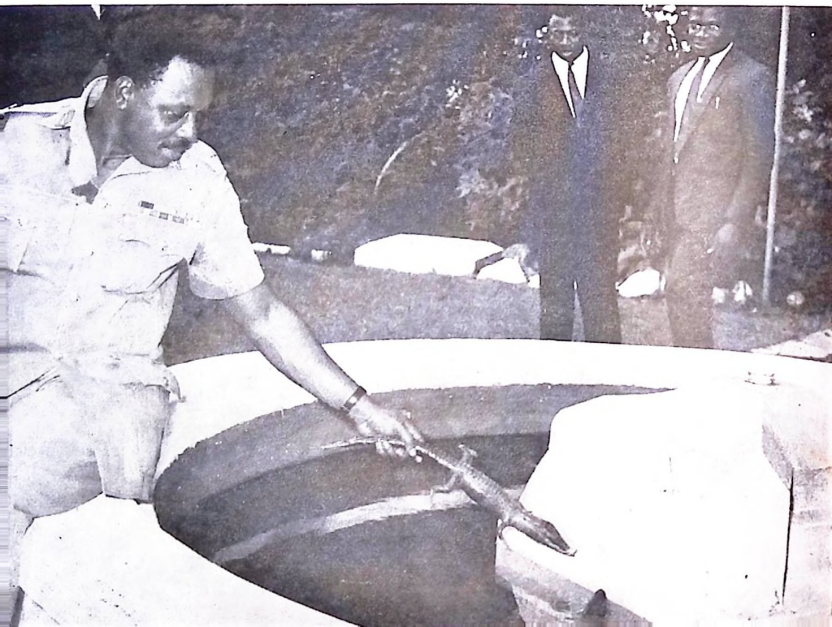
Friday, April 15

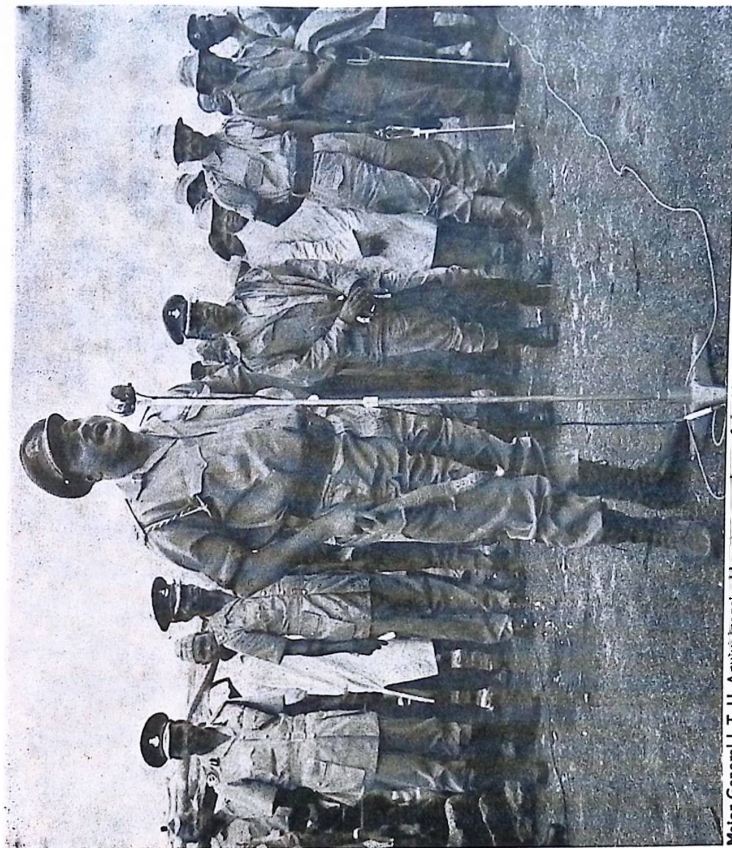
- The Central Executive Council decided on the capital estimates of the various Governments of the Federation for the year 1966-7. It also considered taxation and reaffirmed the desirability of evolving a uniform tax system for the country.

Saturday, April 16

- Former President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, welcomed the Military regime in a statement issued at Nsukka and published by the Government-owned *New Nigeria*.

Pictured left is the Supreme Commander pointing with his stuffed-crocodile swaggerstick to an object in the pool at the Officer's mess at the Headquarters of the 2nd Brigade in Lagos. After a hectic round of inspection, a few minutes' respite at the poolside was well earned.





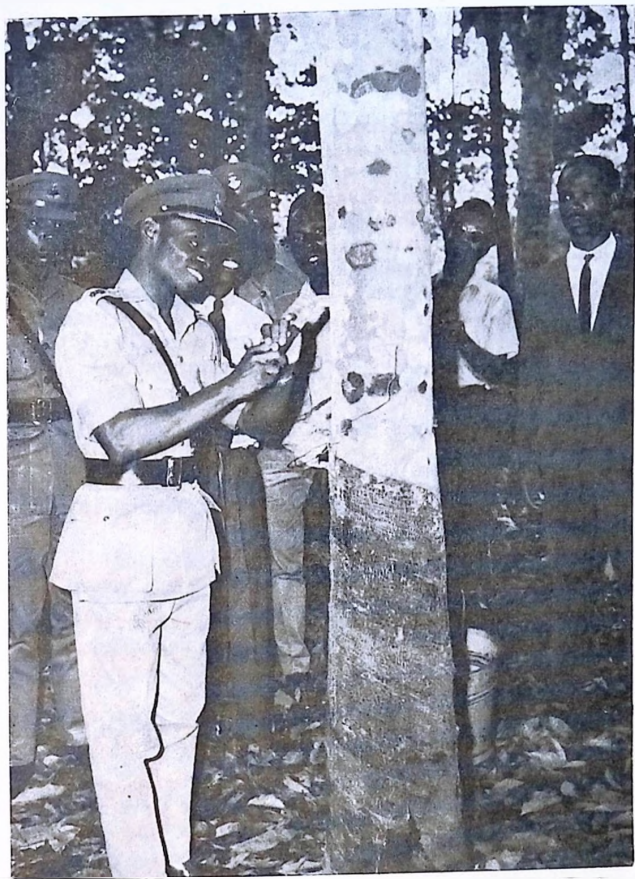
Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi addressing members of the Nigerian Army in the North. In the background to the right, is Lt. Col. H. Usman Katsina, Military Governor, Northern Provinces.

Sunday, April 17

- In a broadcast on his Government's budget, the Military Governor of the Western Provinces said that expenditure of £17.9m was envisaged, external loans and grants of £6.6m expected, and almost £2m provided for expansion of the University of Ife; £3.7m for roads, and £2.3m to be spent on special agricultural development.
- The Northern Provinces budget was expected to spend £68.5m, including Native Authority budgets—an increase of nearly £10m over last year. Recurrent expenditure would be over £37m. Major urban water supply schemes as well as rural ones to be developed. Nearly £2.3m would be made available to the North Development Corporation and £600,000 for the expansion of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Tuesday, April 19

- The Federal Military Government issued a statement referring to soaring food prices and spoke of its determination to ensure that prices returned to normal.
- Mr A. E. Howson-Wright, former Acting Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Information appointed full-time Chairman, Nigerian Railway Corporation.



It's time for real hard work. Here the Military Governor of the Mid-Western Provinces, Lt.-Col. D. A. Ejoor demonstrates to rubber estate workers how best to tap rubber.

Wednesday, April 20

- The Lagos City Council was dissolved by the Federal Military Government and a Caretaker Committee appointed.
- Seven Benin members of the suspended Mid-West Legislature, including Chief Omo-Osagie, and some Ministers, were detained in connection with the findings of the Alexander Commission of Enquiry into the Owegbe Cult, which had been declared illegal.
- £8.8m has been budgeted for capital development in the Mid-West, with £8.8m for recurrent expenditure. This is £5m more than was provided for last year.
- The West Military Governor, Lt.-Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, called on all politicians to take a long holiday. He warned them to desist from hiding 'under the cloak of nebulous organizations to resuscitate clandestine political activities'.

Thursday, April 21

- Export of beans, cassava flour, yam fibre, and other staple foods was prohibited in another move to help defeat soaring food prices.
- Mr H. Howeid, Acting Permanent Secretary, was appointed full-time Chairman of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria.
- There is now only one 'State House' in Nigeria, and it is in Lagos. An official announcement says the Governors' residences in the former regional capitals will now be called 'Government House'.



In the course of his tour of educational institutions in Zaria recently the Military Governor of Northern Provinces, Lt.-Col. Hassan Usman, addressed students of the Ahmadu Bello University. He afterwards went round the main sections of the campus. Here the Military Governor watches a modern machine at the Engineering Faculty.



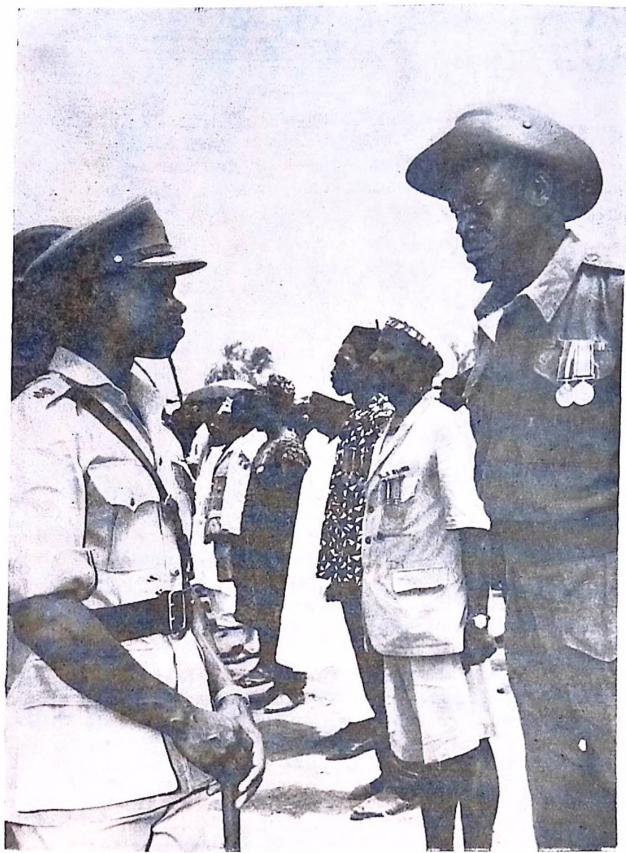
The Military Governor of the Western Provinces, Lt. Col. F. Adékunle Fajuyi meets firemen at the Fire Brigade Centre, Ibadan. Extreme right is the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Keeble.

Friday, April 22

- The Military Government declared that most of the statutory corporations, state-owned companies, and allied enterprises in Nigeria had failed to fulfil the aims for which they were set up.
- A £2m loan from the World Bank for agricultural development in the Western Provinces was announced.

Saturday, April 23

- In Calabar, Customs officers prevented a shipment of over 1,000 bags of gari and other Nigerian foodstuffs to Fernando Po in compliance with the recent ban on the export of certain items of foodstuffs. A combined team of Navy and Customs officers also seized contraband goods valued at £5,000 along the Calabar river.



Lt.-Col. D. A. Ejoor, Military Governor of Mid-Western Provinces and Army veterans who are hopeful of brighter prospects under the new regime.

Sunday, April 24

- Two more persons were detained in the Mid-West in connection with the Owegbe Cult Enquiry report. They are Mr Benedict Uwagboe, member of the suspended legislature and Mr W. E. Aghahowa. This brought to nine, the number of Mid-West legislators now detained in connection with the Owegbe.

Monday, April 25

- Western Nigeria is to be re-divided into eight Provinces. The Military Governor also announced that each of the Provinces would have two or three divisions, depending on its size.

Tuesday, April 26

- The Government decided to introduce austerity measures in public spending to strengthen the balance of payments and acquire a much higher level of reserves, official Government delegates will no longer be accommodated in the most elegant and luxurious hotels abroad.
- Leaving Lagos for the first time in the 100 days since he became Head of the Federal Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi arrived in Northern Nigeria for a short visit. He addressed Army units and inspected Military installations in Kaduna.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (President).
2. Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters.
3. Chief of Staff, Nigerian Army.
4. Military Governor, Eastern Group of Provinces.
5. Military Governor, Western Group of Provinces.
6. Military Governor, Northern Group of Provinces.
7. Military Governor, Mid-Western Group of Provinces.
8. Head of the Nigerian Navy.
9. Head of the Nigerian Air Force.
10. Inspector-General of Police.
11. Deputy Inspector-General.
12. Administrator for Lagos

SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL

1. Head of the National Military Government and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (President).
2. Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters.
3. Chief of Staff, Nigerian Army.
4. Military Governor, Eastern Group of Provinces.
5. Military Governor, Western Group of Provinces.
6. Military Governor, Northern Group of Provinces.
7. Military Governor, Mid-Western Group of Provinces.
8. Head of the Nigerian Navy.
9. Head of the Nigerian Air Force.



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