



JOINT COMMUNIQUE

ON THE VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. GYUDE BRYANT, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA TO NIGERIA 13-14 APRIL, 2004

- 1.1 His Excellency, Mr. Charles Gyude Bryant, Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs Rosie-Lee Bryant, paid a two-day State Visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the invitation of His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 13 to 14 April, 2004.
- 1.2 On arrival at Abuja, the Chairman of the NTGL and his entourage received a warm reception befitting the warm and cordial ties subsisting between Nigeria and Liberia. President Obasanjo and Chairman Bryant held formal discussions during which they reviewed the Liberian peace process as well as bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global issues.
- 1.3 The two leaders underscored the irreversibility of the peace process in Liberia. In this regard, they noted the significant

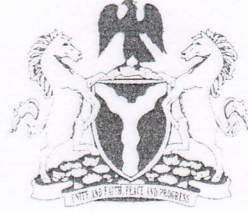


progress that has been made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. They called on all the stakeholders to work constructively and to refrain from any actions and statements that do not advance the peace process.

- 1.4 President Obasanjo and Chairman Bryant acknowledged with satisfaction the support and contribution of ECOWAS, the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations as well as those of countries at the bilateral level to the peace process. Accordingly, they welcomed the convening of the International Conference for the Reconstruction of Liberia in New York, 5-6 February, 2004. They were of the view that the US\$520 million pledged was further evidence of the goodwill and support of the international community for the peace and stability of Liberia and its reconstruction.
- 1.5 Chairman Bryant informed President Obasanjo of the recommencement of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) programme on 15 April, 2004. President Obasanjo welcomed the development and reaffirmed Nigeria's continued support to the Liberian peace process. He commended the efforts of the NTGL to consolidate peace through national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.



- called on the international community to act in concert to deal
- 1.6 The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent and cooperative ties existing between Nigeria and Liberia. At the same time they also affirmed the desire and need to further deepen these relations. In this regard they renewed their determination to actively encourage, promote and foster bilateral ties in the social, cultural, economic and technological fields.
- 1.7 On African Affairs, the two leaders expressed concern over the proliferation of conflicts in the continent and reaffirmed their full support and commitment to sub-regional and regional initiatives to prevent, mediate and resolve them. They appealed to African countries to devote their resources and energy to the urgent task of economic growth and development so as to enhance the well being of their peoples and thereby preposition them to face the challenges of the future. In this regard they welcomed the establishment of NEPAD as a viable framework for African regeneration and renaissance.
- 1.8 With regard to global affairs President Obasanjo and Chairman Bryant expressed concern about the increasing incidence of international terrorism and terrorist acts and called for concerted action to deal with the menace. The two leaders also



called on the international community to act in concert to deal with HIV/AIDS and other pandemic diseases, the excruciating debt burden of developing countries, the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons as well as rising poverty in developing countries. They underscored the need for the return to countries of origin of illegally transferred funds and artefacts to facilitate the process of economic and social development of these countries.

- 1.9 Finally, the two leaders reiterated the importance of global peace and stability to economic growth and development and sustainable democracy. In this regard, they urged the international community to take every step that will promote the attainment of this objective.
- 2.0 At the end of his visit, Chairman Bryant expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to President Obasanjo, the Government and People of Nigeria for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded him and his entourage. Chairman Bryant said that he looked forward to a return visit by President Obasanjo. The invitation was accepted and the date of the State Visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels.



Done at Abuja

This 14th Day of April, 2004

in two originals, both equally authentic

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

ON THE VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. GYUDE BRYANT,
CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

For the Government of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria

For the Government of the
Republic of Liberia

1. His Excellency, Mr. Charles Gyude Bryant, Chairman of the
National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL),
accompanied by the First Lady Mrs. Rosie-Lee Bryant, paid a
working State Visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the

Obasanjo

Olusegun Obasanjo
President, Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria

C. Gyude Bryant

Charles Gyude Bryant
Chairman of the National
Transitional Government
of Liberia

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