

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Samuel Kanyon Doe, President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, paid a State Visit to Liberia from November 30, 1988 to December 3, 1988.

In the spirit of mutual understanding, fraternity and cordiality, the two Presidents reviewed bilateral matters of interest affecting their two countries. They also reviewed issues of common concern on the sub-regional, regional and global levels. They expressed satisfaction at the strong bond of friendship which happily subsists between their two Governments and Peoples.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was attended by the following:

1. Air Vice-Marshal Muhammed Yahaya
Member, Armed Forces Ruling Council
2. Major-General IOS Nwachukwu
Minister of External Affairs
3. Alhaji Bunu Sheriff Musa
Minister of Mines, Power and Steel
4. Ambassador Zabair M. Kazaure
Deputy Director-General
Ministry of External Affairs
5. Ambassador E. Ola Adefemiwa
Assistant Director-General
Ministry of External Affairs
6. Ambassador Ahmed Yusufari
State Chief of Protocol
7. Ambassador Peter Osuman
Ambassador of Nigeria to Liberia
8. Dr. G. A. Obiozir
Special Advisor to Honourable
Minister of External Affairs

10. Dr. S. A. Adelakun
Deputy General Manager
Delta Steel Company
11. Mr. E. E. Onobu
Special Assistant to Honourable
Minister of External Affairs
12. Mr. J. Keshi
Counsellor
Ministry of External Affairs
13. Mr. T. K. Obajuluwa
Counsellor
Ministry of External Affairs

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Liberia was attended by the following:

1. His Excellency J. Rudolph Johnson
Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. Honourable John Wesseh McClain
Minister of Commerce & Industry
3. Honourable S. Gblorzou Toweh
Minister of Agriculture
4. Honourable G. Alvin Jones
Minister of State for Presidential Affairs
5. Honourable Elijah E. Taylor
Minister of Planning & Economic Affairs
6. Honourable Wm. Amara Freeman
Minister of Lands, Mines & Energy
7. Honourable Mcleod E. T. Darpoh
Minister of Transport
8. His Excellency D. Dueh Chieh
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary to the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
9. Honourable Philip Davies
Managing Director
Liberia Petroleum Refining Company
10. Honourable Thomas C. T. Bestman
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs

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The two Presidents recognized and acknowledged the need to foster and expand cooperation in all areas of their relations. In particular, they agreed on promoting trade, increased indigenous investments in their respective economies and on cooperation in the scientific and technical fields within the context of South South relations. They emphasized the imperative of establishing a solid base for intra-African trade and economic cooperation in order to break the dependency syndrome in relation to the developed economies.

The two Presidents expressed grave concern over the debt problem of the developing countries and its negative effects on their socio-economic development. They regretted that the debt burden and the needed debt-relief measures are not receiving sufficient attention from the developed countries and renewed the call for an international conference on Africa's external indebtedness.

President Doe and President Babangida renewed their determination to encourage, promote and foster economic, scientific and technical cooperation between their two countries. They re-affirmed their commitment to the expeditious and full implementation of all agreements and other related instruments for cooperation in various fields concluded between the Republic of Liberia and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

With regard to the Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the two countries executed a Protocol that would facilitate the launching and the functioning of the Joint Commission established by the said Agreement.

✓ The two Presidents identified several priority areas for possible joint venture activities between the two countries. They directed the Joint Commission to meet within three months to draw up an action program of implementation. In particular the Joint Commission will explore possibilities for Joint venture projects in the areas of Automobile Tyre Manufacturing, Wood Processing, Iron Ore Mining, Petroleum Exploration and Refining, Palm Oil Refining, Cassava Processing, Cement Production and Technical Cooperation.

They reaffirmed their commitment to execute a bilateral Trade Agreement and agreed that a Nigerian Trade Mission will visit Liberia by Mid-January, 1989.

The two Presidents expressed their confidence in ECOWAS as an effective instrument for collective campaign against poverty and under-development. They reaffirmed their commitment to the attainment of ECOWAS objectives aimed at the integration of the sub-region. They reiterated the need for member-states to honour their financial obligation to the Organization and to harmonise their policies and socio-economic activities along the lines of the Monrovia Strategy, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos for the economic development of Africa.

The two Presidents expressed their abhorrence of all forms of racial discrimination, and strongly condemned the policy of apartheid carried out by the repressive regime of South Africa against the black majority population and called for the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime by the international community.

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On the recent diplomatic forays by Mr. Piete Botha into independent Africa, the two Presidents observed that the moves are part of his regime's strategy of deceit. They expressed relief that practically the entire continent of Africa recognized the futility of holding dialogue with a regime that does not believe in dialogue with its own citizens. They challenged Mr. Botha to show proof of good faith by releasing forthwith all the incarcerated political leaders in South Africa and begin serious dialogue with them aimed at dismantling apartheid.

While welcoming the recent agreement which emerged from the quadripartite discussions on regional peace in Southern Africa, the two Presidents called on the racist Pretoria regime to honour its commitments under said agreement in order that Namibia may achieve its independence and the security of Angola be guaranteed.

On the question of Western Sahara, they welcomed the initiatives by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity toward effecting a cease-fire and organizing a referendum based on the principle of self-determination.

President Doe and President Babangida welcomed the easing of tension around the continent and called on African States to cease hostilities in the remaining trouble spots so that they could use their scarce resources for development.

The two Presidents discussed the Middle East problem and noted the recent declaration by the Palestine National Council as a positive step toward resolution of the conflict. Meanwhile, they reaffirmed their belief that a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Middle East problem should be pursued within the framework of an international conference with equal participation of all the concerned parties.

President Doe and President Babangida noted with grave concern the dumping of toxic and radioactive waste on Africa and denounced the practice as morally reprehensible and an affront to the dignity of Africans. They expressed concern over the detrimental effects of this practice on human health and the environment. They therefore appealed to all African countries to speak with one voice on this issue and refrain from entering into any agreements or arrangements that would permit the disposal of toxic and radioactive waste on their territories.

In recognition of President Babangida's outstanding contributions to the promotion and advancement of peace and unity on the African continent, the University of Liberia conferred upon him a Degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa in International Relations and named the new Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Liberia after him.

As a further manifestation of the close friendship between the two Presidents, Dr. Samuel Kanyon Doe was pleased to name in honour of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida the newly-constructed KLAY-BO Highway in Grand Cape Mount County.

At the end of his visit, President Babangida expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and People of Liberia for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded him and his entourage throughout the visit and extended an invitation to President Doe to visit Nigeria. This invitation was accepted, and the date of the visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

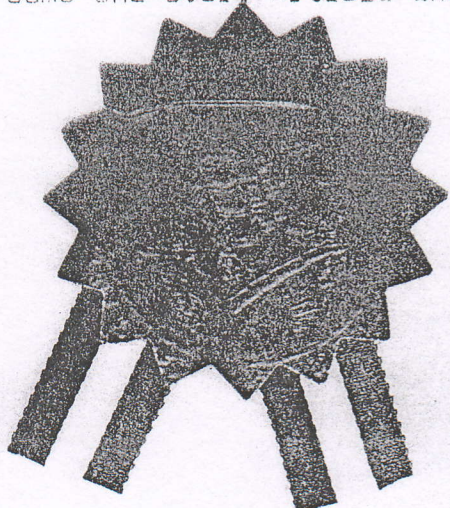


INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

KNOW YE, that whereas the Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Federal Military Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, signed by the duly authorized Representative of the Government of the Republic of Liberia at Lagos on the 21st day of January A. D. 1987, has been accepted by the Government of the Republic of Liberia as of the 2nd day of September, A.D., 1987;

AND WHEREAS, The Senate of the Republic of Liberia by the Resolution of August 25th, 1987, two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein, did advise and give consent to the ratification of the said Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, Samuel Kanyon Doe, President of the Republic of Liberia, having seen and considered the said Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, do hereby, in pursuance of the aforesaid advice and consent of the Senate, ratify and confirm the same and every Article and Clause thereof.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSE THE SEAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA TO BE AFFIXED

DONE AT MONROVIA THIS 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER A. D. 1988, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND.

BY THE PRESIDENT

[Handwritten signatures]