

OFFICIAL VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. WILLIAM R. TOLBERT JR.,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF NIGERIA FROM FRIDAY 18TH MAY TO SATURDAY 19TH MAY, 1973

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

His Excellency Dr. William R. Tolbert Jr., President of the Republic of Liberia paid an official visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 18 - 19th May, 1973 at the invitation of His Excellency General Yakubu Gowon, Head of the Federal Military Government, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. On his arrival and throughout his stay in Nigeria, the President of Liberia and his delegation received a warm and cordial reception befitting the close ties of friendship binding the two countries.

During the visit, the two Heads of State held discussions on a wide range of international and African matters as well as subjects of mutual interest to bilateral relations between the two countries. The discussions were held in a spirit of profound understanding and brotherhood and in furtherance of the desire of the two Heads of State to maintain close contacts and consultations between themselves and their governments.

The two Heads of State expressed their general satisfaction about the increasingly improved international situation. They welcome the general relaxation of tension in the world today, the promotion of detente between ideological blocs and the increasing desire for negotiations and the search for peaceful solutions to international disputes and conflicts. They expressed their joint conviction that there should be no derogation of the important role of the United Nations Organisation in the promotion and protection of international peace and security.

At the same time the two Heads of State expressed their concern for the ever growing gap between the developed and developing areas of the world and the increasing deterioration in the terms of trade and the rate of growth and development of the developing countries. They expressed their conviction that developing countries particularly in Africa can advance their economic and social progress through mutual co-operation and self-reliant efforts among

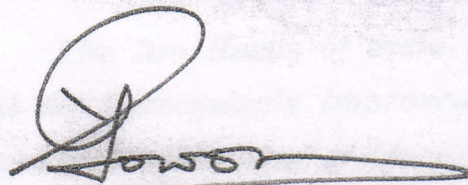
The two Heads of State agreed that urgent reforms are necessary in the existing international economic order to improve the positions of the developing countries in the fields of trade, monetary arrangements and development assistance so that they can pay their way through equitable international intercourse. They also agreed that the main objective of relationships between individual or groups of African countries with other economies or economic groupings in the world should be to enhance the capacities of African countries to promote economic measures that are fundamental to both their future development and intra-African cooperation.

With regard to the Organization of African Unity, the two Heads of State, on the eve of the tenth anniversary of that Organization, re-affirmed their faith and confidence in the Charter and objectives of the organization. They expressed their satisfaction with the achievements of the Organization of African Unity as a machinery for the promotion of peace and stability in Africa and reiterated their common commitment and support to the Organization of African Unity in its efforts for the total liberation of Africa from all forms of colonialism; the elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination; and the advancement of the economic and social development of African countries. The two Heads of State expressed their conviction that the forthcoming commemorative session of the tenth anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity should provide the opportunity for assessing its achievements and taking appropriate measures to strengthen the organization as an instrument for unity, progress and solidarity in Africa.

With regard to bilateral relations, the two Heads of State agreed to institute appropriate measures to explore and further develop areas of cooperation in economic relations, trade, shipping and aviation and industrial harmonisation between the two countries. To this end, they decided that early steps should be taken to conclude the relevant agreements on these matters.

The two Heads of State together reviewed the efforts, in the past five years towards closer economic ties and cooperation in West Africa. In this connection they noted that the states of the sub-region are taking more active and practical steps in recent years and that a number of sub-regional groupings for co-operation and joint development have been created in West Africa. They reiterated their determination to work together in consultation and concert with other governments of the sub-region for the early attainment of a West African Economic Community cutting across language, cultural, ideological or other barriers.

The President of the Republic of Liberia expressed his deep and sincere appreciation to the Head of the Federal Military Government, the Government and people of Nigeria for the warm and fraternal reception accorded him and his entourage throughout their stay in Nigeria.



*(GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON)
Head of the Federal Military Government, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*



*(DR. WILLIAM R. TOLBERT JR.,)
President of the Republic of Liberia.*