

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (3086)

April 11, 1972

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: Fred Rondon *FR*

SUBJECT: Farewell Call by Nigerian Ambassador

Secretary Rogers has recommended that the Nigerian Ambassador pay a farewell call on the President (Tab II). Such a call would be a useful gesture to General Gowon, who has become one of Black Africa's most important, most respected leaders. He has been sharply disillusioned by US imports of Rhodesian chrome and recently told our Ambassador that we seem to place more importance on White rather than Black African interests. A call on the President would demonstrate that we value his friendship and that we are seriously interested in and are sympathetic to African aspirations. The President is familiar with the Byrd Amendment and with the help of a talker should not be placed in an uncomfortable position should the question of chrome imports arise. Ambassador Iyalla is an intelligent, outgoing individual.

RECOMMENDATION

That you initial the schedule proposal for the President at Tab I.

Disapproved by Greil Hay 4-14

Attachments:

Tab I - Secretary of State's memorandum to the President,
April 6, 1972

Tab II - Suggested schedule proposal for the President.

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SECRETARY OF STATE S/S - 7206268
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

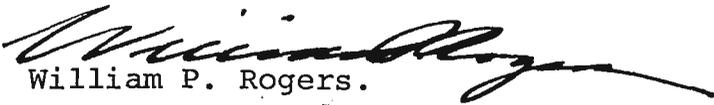
Subject: Farewell Call for Nigerian Ambassador Iyalla

I recommend that you receive Ambassador Joe Iyalla of Nigeria for a farewell call sometime during the last two weeks in April.

With his close connections to General Gowon, and singleminded dedication to the national interests of Nigeria, Iyalla has been one of the most effective African diplomats over the four years he has served here. Apart from Gowon himself, no Nigerian has done more to restore good relations in the post war period.

In May Iyalla returns to Lagos to become Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, the top career official in the Nigerian foreign policy structure. Iyalla's new position will broaden his influence and bring it to bear on almost every foreign policy decision of the Federal Military Government. The possibility of Gowon's making a State Visit here next year, our access to leaders in Lagos, and the increasing scale of US private investment in Nigeria are all matters on which Iyalla will be giving key advice. Your receiving Iyalla for a farewell call would be a gesture of respect toward Gowon, would underline the importance of Nigeria in our African policy, and would further cordial relations with the Federal Military Government in the future.

A biographic sketch of the Ambassador is attached.


William P. Rogers.

Attachment:
Biographic Sketch.

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