BACKGROUND USE ONLY CITE TDCS DE-315/00173-70 (ADVANCE)
COUNTRY: NIGERIA/SENEGAL/IVORY COAST/France
DOI: 13 JANUARY 1970
SUBJECT: 1. WHEREABOUTS OF BIAFRAN SECESSIONIST LEADER GENERAL ODUMEGUO OJUKWU
2. THE EARLY RESPONSE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO THE FALL OF BIAFRA

ACQ: SOURCE:

1. BIAFRAN SECESSIONIST LEADER GENERAL ODUMEGWU OJUKWU HAS BEEN STAYING IN A PRIVATE VILLA IN LIBREVILLE SINCE HIS DEPARTURE FROM BIAFRA. OJUKWU SAID THAT HE WAS DEPARTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF HIS GENERAL STAFF AND TO SPARE HIS PEOPLE FROM EXTERMINATION. CHRISTOPHER OJUKWU, BIAFRAN FINANCE MAN IN EUROPE AND BROTHER-IN-LAW OF OJUKWU, WAS GIVEN A ROUND-TRIP TICKET TO LIBREVILLE ON 13 JANUARY BY THE FRENCH GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS IN PARIS AND WILL JOIN OJUKWU IN LIBREVILLE ON 14 JANUARY.

C.C. M O J E K V U, BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON, HAS ALSO DEPARTED BY AIR FOR LIBREVILLE. FRENCH SECRETARY GENERAL FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS JACQUES F O C C A R T HAS LEFT YACOUGO WHERE HE WAS ATTENDING CAMEROON'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS TO MEET WITH OJUKWU IN LIBREVILLE. BIAFRAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE M. M. F. O. HAS REMAINED IN BIAFRA.
2. On the evening of 13 January 1970, Foccart's deputy Jean Mauriceau-Beaupre went to see French Minister of National Defense Michel Debré. Debré and Mauriceau-Beaupre decided to have the stock of French-supplied arms removed and divided between the French bases at Douala and Abidjan. Mauriceau-Beaupre said that France had sent $30,000,000 in material to Biafra, lent Ivory Coast President Houphouët-Boigny $3,000,000 for Biafran operations, and faces a debt of circa $400,000 for services.

3. There are at present no plans for French support to Biafran guerrilla resistance. The rationale for this position as expressed by Mauriceau-Beaupre to individuals concerned with executing Biafran operations was as follows: "France supported Biafra because of the oil and ERP, but not the Ibo revolution. The support was actually given to a handful of Biafran bourgeoisie in return for the oil. There is no popular support in Biafra for a guerrilla war now. The real Ibo mentality is much farther to the left than that of Ojukwu and even if we had won, there would have been the problem of keeping him in power in the face of leftist infiltration."