SUBJECT: FERGUSON DISCUSSION WITH GEN. GOWON RE INTERDICTION RELIEF FLIGHTS

1. IN COURSE DISCUSSION WITH GEN. GOWON ON SURFACE ROUTES, FERGUSON USED OCCASION TO INQUIRE WHETHER ANY BASIS IN FACT REPORTS FMG ADOPTING NEW POLICY RELATIVE TO RELIEF FLIGHTS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THEIR INTERDICTION BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT. GOWON AFTER DELIVERING LECTURE TO EFFECT SECURITY OF NIGERIA PARAMOUNT AND THAT IF NECESSARY ALL RELIEF FLIGHTS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES WOULD BE HELTED, WENT ON TO RESTATE HIS CONSISTENT POSITION THAT ALL NIGHT FLIGHTS "ILLEGAL" AND THAT THOSE FLYING THEM DO SO AT OWN RISK. HE ALSO SAID THAT PERMISSION FOR DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AT ANY GIVEN TIME. HE THEN ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN POLICY AND VOLUNTEERED THAT SHOULD THERE BE A CHANGE HE WOULD GIVE APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.
2. BRIG. KATSINA COS NIGERIAN ARMY ON JUNE 2 GAVE CONSUL STOKES SAME ASSURANCE THAT POLICY RE FLIGHTS UNCHANGED.

GP-3 OLSON