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No. 1626/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 July 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Nigeria
(As of 2:00 EDT)

1. Negotiations toward the formation of a new government are now under way in Lagos. Brigadier Ogundipe, who appears to be one of the key leaders of the military government as it now exists, is representing Western Yoruba interests, the deputy police chief and two northern civil servants are representing the northern Hausa tribes, while the Federal Attorney general is standing in for the eastern Ibos. They are probably planning some form of "loose federation" of Nigeria's mutually antagonistic ethnic groups.
2. The Western region of Nigeria is apparently now under rebel control. The Ibo commander of the third battalion in Kaduna, capital of the Northern region, has been killed and his northern troops seem to be in charge. The army chief of staff is now at Ikeja, site of the international airport serving Lagos, negotiating a settlement with the rebellious Hausa troops who are still in control there. Lagos, Kaduna, and Ibadan are outwardly calm, as is the Eastern region.
3. Major-General Ironsi may still be alive but it appears unlikely that he will be able to reassert his authority. Nigeria's new government--probably a modified military regime in which the Ibos will no longer be dominant--will most likely abandon Ironsi's plans for a unitary form of government.
4. The disorders so far appear to be purely military and tribal in nature and have had no anti-European overtones.

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