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No. 1627/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
31 July 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Nigeria
(As of 8:00 AM EDT)

1. There have been no reports of bloodshed since 0300 EDT on 30 July, and northern elements appear to be in control of army units in both the northern and western areas of the country. However, the situation in Lagos is unclear with police and army units probably badly split along tribal lines and with considerable animosity known to exist between the police and army there. The cruiser Nigeria, with Brigadier Ogundipe and Commodore Wey aboard, is anchored in position to control access to Lagos Island from the mainland by way of Carter bridge.

2. Negotiations are continuing at Ikeja, and the absence of shooting suggests that some meeting of the minds may have already occurred. Northern and western military leaders will probably try to dictate terms to the badly divided remnants of the Ironsi government and may fly in reinforcements from northern Nigeria to strengthen their bargaining position. Western Yorubas who worked with Northern politicians under the former Balewa government appear to be cooperating with northern army elements now. General Ironsi reportedly is being held in detention at Ibadan.

3. As a result of the military upheaval, hard-line Ibo easterners are being forced out of the picture. If northerners gain control of the national government and if their terms are too stiff for the East to accept, there may be a move for

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secession by the East. Such an action would be extremely difficult to combat militarily from Lagos. There have been no reports of a military or political reaction from the East.

4. There have been no reports of danger to American lives.

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