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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 38//

TO ADAMS/BARRIAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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VIA BLACK PATCH WH51621

TOHAK 38

AUGUST 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA: THE NEW MILITARY REGIME THAT TOOK POWER LAST MONTH IN NIGERIA HAS MADE A GOOD INITIAL IMPRESSION ON THE PUBLIC BY AVOIDING ANY SUGGESTION OF ETHNIC FAVORITISM SO FAR AND BY MOVING TO TACKLE SEVERAL LONG-STANDING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. FOREIGN POLICY REMAINS ON THE BACK BURNER FOR NOW, ALTHOUGH CONTINUITY IN NIGERIA'S RELATIONS IS BEING STRESSED. HEAD OF STATE BRIGADIER MUHAMMED HAS TAKEN A HARD LINE AGAINST THE CORRUPTION ENDEMIC IN THE GOVERNMENT AND HAS INDICATED THAT CLOSER SUPERVISION BY THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL IS IN STORE. IN OUTLINING THE REGIME'S MODE OF OPERATION RECENTLY, HE DECLARED THAT CABINET DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE COLLECTIVELY AND WITHIN GUIDELINES SET BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL. STATE MILITARY GOVERNORS HAVE BEEN ADMONISHED NOT TO TOLERATE GRAFT OR ABUSE OF POWER IN THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS. THEY ARE DISMISSING LARGE NUMBERS OF ALLEGEDLY CORRUPT STATE OFFICIALS. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE REGIME HAS THROWN ITS SUPPORT BEHIND THE \$48-BILLION FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOWON INTRODUCED LAST APRIL. A TASK FORCE IS BEING FORMED TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO CONTROL NIGERIA'S SOARING RATE OF INFLATION, NOW APPROACHING 40 PERCENT. NIGERIA'S NEW RULERS MAY NOT FULLY APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITY OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS.

MORI/CDF per C02398062

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SECFL, SDO

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THEY INTEND TO TACKLE, HOWEVER. THEY WILL SOON HAVE TO TRANSLATE THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS INTO SOME MORE VISIBLE PROGRESS OR FACE EARLY PUBLIC DISENCHANTMENT WITH THEIR PERFORMANCE AND INCREASED PRESSURE FOR A COMMITMENT TO RETURN NIGERIA TO CIVILIAN RULE.

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