



FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT CHERNENKO IN MOSCOW: POSSIBLE MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Looking forward to seeing you in London next week and to having full discussions on bilateral and international issues, such as Southern Africa and economic relations between developed and developing countries.
2. How did you find the recent emergency food Conference in Geneva? We are doing what we can to help Ethiopia and other drought stricken countries in Africa. But African countries must seek agricultural policies, which will lead to increased food production.

Defensive

3. We warmly welcome the negotiations taking place in Geneva, between the US and USSR on nuclear and space arms.
4. Tanzania accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) would make important contribution to regional security in Southern Africa and would increase moral pressure on South Africa to adhere to Treaty.

EAST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

12 MARCH 1985



PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

NIGERIA: POINTS TO MAKE

- Glad to see from Dr Gambari's message shared wish to get relations mended.
- Do not let Dikko damage very important mutual interests.
- Home Office processing asylum application and extradition request [REDACTED] could yet take some time. Understand your feelings but decisions legal not political.
- Continuing contact important. Hope Sir Geoffrey Howe can visit soon.



ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND

BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. Highly sensitive though contacts have helped avoid further deterioration. Risk to national interest from Nigerian reaction to decision over Dikko's future remains high. Response from Dr Gambari to Secretary of State's message just before Yusufu trial echoed the wish to get relations restored and promised a further reaction in due course to the possibility of an early meeting between Gambari and the Secretary of State.

YUSUFU

2. No precipitate Nigerian reaction to sentence (12 years). Buhari at least may now see this as a lesser issue.

DIKKO

3. Nigerian government continues to see his future status in the UK as a touch-stone of our relations. Nigerian retaliation against British interests if he is allowed to remain in the UK a fortiori granted political asylum could be seriously damaging. Home Office are alive to national interest but constrained by British and international law and practice. Joint FCO/Home Office meeting arranged for 15 March to finalise submission to Ministers of options available for Dikko's future. Home Secretary's decision (especially if favourable to British national interest) could be made within weeks. But tactically we may want to delay informing the Nigerians of any decision. May therefore not let the Nigerians know that decisions could be taken soon. (The Nigerians continue to believe and apparently largely accept that decisions over asylum and extradition normally take many months.)

/BRISTOWS

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BRISTOWS ENGINEERS

4. Conditions of detention deteriorated badly on transfer from Police custody to Maximum Security Prison 15 February under Decree 2 (of military government which allows for indefinite detention).

5. Consular access 20-26 February: permission obtained 27 February for visits Tuesdays and Fridays, but access denied Tuesday 5 March.

6. Mr Rifkind called in Karfi, Nigerian Acting High Commissioner, on 5 March and protested vigorously at conditions and denial of access. Our Acting High Commissioner in Lagos has taken urgent parallel action at senior official level with the Nigerians and will also do so at Ministerial level as soon as possible.

7. A further attempt at consular access on 9 March was again blocked, though the Prison Governor said that a bed had been provided for Paterson and better food supplies arranged.

8. Meanwhile, press and parliamentary interest continues to mount. Nigerians are sensitive to their public image and increased media attention, if not excessive or unbalanced, not necessarily unhelpful.

9. Risk is that the Nigerians see the two engineers as hostages, though assurances _____ that NSO not involved suggest case not political. Also informal assurances from Police that Decree 2 in this case simply an administrative measure. If valid, these too suggest not seen as a political case. On the other hand, increasingly difficult to explain the case in "innocent" terms.

West African Department

12 March 1985