

Final Communiqué of the of the ECOWAS Committee of Five on the Liberian Crisis

Yamoussoukro, 16-17 September 1991

1. The ECOWAS Committee of five on Liberia held its second meeting in Yamoussoukro, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, from 16 to 17 September 1991 under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY, President of the Republic of CÔTE D'IVOIRE. The Committee invited certain Member States of ECOWAS to participate in its deliberations.
2. Present at the Meeting were the following Heads of and Government or their duly accredited representatives:
 - His Excellency Captain Blaise COMPAORÉ, President of Faso, Head of Government, BURKINA FASO.
 - His Excellency Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY, President of the Republic of CÔTE D'IVOIRE.
 - His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba JAWARA, President of the Republic of THE GAMBIA.
 - His Excellency General Joao Benardo VIEIRA, President of the Council of State of the Republic of GUINEA-BISSAU.
 - His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Toumani TOURE, Chairman of the People's Redemption Transitional Committee, Head of State of the Republic of MALI.
 - His Excellency Abdou DIOUF, President of the Republic of SENEGAL.
 - Honourable Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH, Prime Minister of the TOGOLESE Republic.
 - Honourable Augustus AIKHOMU, Vice-President, representing the President of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA.
 - Honourable Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS, Deputy PNDC Secretary for Foreign Affairs, representing the Head of State of the Republic of Ghana.
3. Also present at the invitation of the Committee were:
 - His Excellency Dr. Amos SAWYER, President of the Interim Government of LIBERIA.
 - Mr. Charles TAYLOR, Head of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).
 - The Representative of the International Negotiations Network (INN).

OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS CONSULTATIONS

4. The Committee reviewed developments relating to the Liberian crisis since its last meeting in Yamoussoukro on July 29, 1991. The Committee noted that since the meeting, consultations were undertaken between Member States of ECOWAS and with some friendly states outside the

sub-region on a number of matters aimed at restoring lasting peace and security to Liberia in justice and dignity.

ECOMOG

5. The Meeting recognized the vital importance that the necessary conditions of peace and security on the ground should be created in order to reinforce the confidence of the parties concerned as well as create the necessary atmosphere conducive to the holding of free, fair and democratic elections in Liberia. To this end, the Meeting agreed on the need to remodel and reinforce ECOMOG and reiterated earlier appeals to other Member States of ECOWAS willing and able to contribute troops to do so without any further delay. It therefore welcomed with appreciation the announcement by Senegal of its readiness to contribute troops to ECOMOG.

MAINTENANCE OF CEASEFIRE

6. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that both the Interim Government and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia had adhered to their commitments to continue to observe and consolidate the ceasefire in Liberia.

ENCAMPMENT AND DISARMAMENT

7. The Meeting welcomed the agreement of the parties to implement, under ECOMOG supervision, the encampment of their troops in designated locations and their disarmament, and the arms and ammunition would be deposited in appropriate armories also under the supervision of ECOMOG. The Meeting mandated ECOMOG, in liaison with the parties concerned, to work out the practical modalities for the implementation of this agreement.

ELECTORAL PROCESS

8. The two parties agreed to set up a five-member Elections Commission for the organization and supervision of the elections to be held in Liberia. The Commission would meet in Monrovia as soon as possible.

9. The two parties agreed to establish a five-member Ad Hoc Supreme Court to adjudicated disputes arising from the electoral process as provided for by the Liberian Constitution.

10. The parties also agreed to co-operate fully with the International Negotiations network (INN) of the Carter Centre invited by the Committee to assist with the electoral process.

MISSIONS TO GUINEA AND SIERRA LEONE

11. Concerned about the deterioration of the security situation in the border areas between Liberian and Sierra Leone on the one hand, and Liberia and Guinea on the other, the Meeting requested Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria under the Chairmanship of Senegal to visit Guinea and Sierra Leone. The objective of the mission, among other things, would be to convey the outcome of this Meeting to the Heads of State of those countries with a view to enlisting their co-operation for the successful implementation of the agreement reached and to facilitating the restoration of normalcy in those border areas.

VOTE OF THANKS

12. The Meeting expressed its appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to all delegations and for the excellent facilities made available to ensure the success of the Meeting.

NEXT MEETING

13. The Committee decided to meet again in Yamoussoukro on 29 of October 1991.

DONE IN YAMOUSSOUKRO

THIS SEVENTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1991

.....
Captain Blaise COMPAORÉ

President of Faso Head of Government,
BURKINA FASO

.....
His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba

JAWARA
President of the Republic of THE GAMBIA

.....
His Excellency Lt. Col. Arnadou Toumani

TOURÉ
Chairman of the People's Redemption
Transitional Committee,
Head of State of the Republic of MALI

.....
His Excellency Félix HOUPHOUËT -BOIGNY

President of the Republic of CÔTE D'IVOIRE

.....
**His Excellency General Joao Bernardo
VIEIRA**

President of the Council of State of the
Republic of GUINEA-BISSAU

.....
His Excellency Abdou DIOUF
President of the Republic of SENEGAL

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Honorable Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH
Prime Minister of the TOGOLESE Republic

.....
Honourable Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS,
Deputy PNDC Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
Representing the Head of State of the
Republic of Ghana

.....
Honourable Augustus AIKHOMU
Vice-President of the Federal Republic of
NIGERIA

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His Excellency Dr. Amos SAWYER
President of the Interim Government of
LIBERIA

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Mr. Charles TAYLOR
Head of the National Patriotic Front of
LIBERIA (NPFL)