

HackMUN V

JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE: NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR



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Note From the Chairs

Greetings Delegates!

Our names are Meredith Lee and Zariah Stewart and it is our pleasure to welcome you to the Nigerian Civil War Crisis Committee! We, alongside our HackMUN staff, are extremely honored to bring you this committee that features the complex history of the Nigerian-Biafran War. We hope that you will advance your leadership, critical thinking, and collaborative skills by participating in this committee. We will explore a realm of intense debates, political maneuverings, and regional dynamics surrounding one of the most significant events in Nigerian history. As delegates, you will embody key figures within the Nigerian, Biafran, and international communities and work to influence the outcomes of this event. To guide your preparations and ensure an engaging experience, we have prepared this background guide for you that provides historical context, the crisis at hand, and key figures. We encourage you to read all the contents of this background guide so that you gain an understanding of the events that lead up to the beginning of our committee. We also encourage you to look beyond this guide to gain a deeper understanding of the event, your position, and possible solutions to best prepare you for HackMUN.

If you are new to Model UN, do not be shy! MUN is home to one of the most encouraging communities in high school. The various experiences and perspectives that people bring to these conferences are what make Model UN so special. Try your best, be engaged, and embrace the opportunity to learn.

We wish you all a great conference and look forward to the diplomatic resolve, passion, and joy that you will bring to this conference! Feel free to contact us with any questions. See you at HackMUN V!

Sincerely,

Meredith Lee, Secretary-General, HackMUN V

Zariah Stewart, Under-Secretary General, HackMUN V

Chairs and Backroom Directors of the Nigerian Civil War Joint Crisis Committee

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Committee Procedure

This committee follows standard joint crisis committee (JCC) procedure. Unlike traditional crisis committees, the JCC features two interconnected committees, each representing one side of a complex scenario. In this case, one group represents Nigerian support and the other represents Biafran support. Delegates will experience intense negotiations, strategic decision-making, and rapid crisis management as they navigate through this committee.

Debate Format

Debate will consist of a series of unmoderated caucuses and moderated caucuses. In a moderated caucus, debate is structured and when proposed, a delegate should list the total amount of speaking time, then the individual speaking time, and finally the topic of debate. In an unmoderated caucus, discussion is unstructured and delegates travel around the room to converse with other delegates.

Notes

Crisis staff will be open to receiving notes. In these notes, delegates can communicate with the backroom to seek clarifications regarding their country's current assets related to the war, reach out to figures who are not in the committee for help or information, and propose actions to advance their country's objectives. Delegates can utilize these resources to carry out actions that have a substantial change to the situation, potentially leading to crisis updates. Examples of valuable resources in this war include food aid, international media access, and government connections.

Position Papers

If you wish to be considered for an award this year at HackMUN V, you must submit a position paper. Position Papers help you effectively prepare for debate by engaging meaningfully with the topic before the conference. Furthermore, your chairs can better understand your position's unique issues and possible solutions. For this crisis committee,

an ideal position paper reflects a comprehensive understanding of the historical context surrounding the Nigerian Civil War and contains a description of your position and stance within the conflict, the resources you may have at your disposal, and potential solutions to the challenges at hand. Please send position papers, around 1-2 pages in length, in Google Doc or PDF format to nigeriancivilwarhackmun@gmail.com by 8:00 AM on March 9th, 2024.

If you have questions about committee procedure, please feel free to reach out to nigeriancivilwarhackmun@gmail.com.

Content Warning and Guidelines

Before delving into the historical context of the Nigerian Civil War, it is crucial to acknowledge the potential for upsetting content. The Nigerian Civil War was a deeply traumatic and tragic chapter in Nigeria's history, marked by significant loss of life, displacement, and suffering. Discussions about this conflict may include references to sensitive topics such as genocide and displacement. As delegates engage in this committee, we ask you to approach the subject matter with sensitivity, empathy, and respect for the experiences of those affected in order to engage in a meaningful and productive simulation that ensures a safe, enjoyable, and friendly committee for all delegates.

With this in mind, the HackMUN staff asks you to follow these guidelines:

1. Avoid language or actions that may be perceived as disrespectful, provocative, or insensitive. Avoid perpetuating stereotypes or misinformation about the conflict and its participants. Historical accuracy does not justify the use of harmful language.
2. Prioritize the promotion of peace, reconciliation, and understanding, and refrain from advocating for or glorifying violence, oppression, or discrimination.
3. If you become aware of any instances of disrespectful behavior, inappropriate language, or potential harm during the conference, report it to conference staff immediately.

Thank you for adhering to these guidelines.

Introduction to the Committee

With a convoluted web of political maneuverings, economic turbulence, and humanitarian crises, the Nigerian Civil War is quite possibly the most significant event in Nigerian history. The conflict's roots lay within old-standing ethnic tensions that have been exacerbated by British rule, the forced amalgamation of Nigeria, and the struggle for power. This turbulent period filled with betrayal, uprisings, and heated conflict has far-reaching implications for the stability of the Nigerian region, broader geopolitical landscape, and well-being of the Nigerian and Biafran people. Delegates will embody key figures to discuss possible resolutions for the conflict, while securing personal gain. Additionally, you must answer important questions such as how to address the humanitarian crisis, obtain your constituency's objectives, and negotiate an agreement.

A Brief History

Nigeria Before Independence

Post-colonially, during most of the 19th century, powerful Nigerian kingdoms wrestled for control over what is now Nigeria. Each kingdom had distinctive religious, social, and economic distinctions. There were several developed systems, including the Hausa and Jukun states of the north, the Yoruba, Edo, Itsekiri states of the south, as well as the Kingdom of Nri. The diversity, competition, and historical tensions amongst these states caused their rivalry.



Britain's early contact with Nigeria began when the coastal regions of Nigeria started having contact with European powers, including the Portuguese, Dutch, and British, as early as the 15th century. Trade relations, including the slave trade, developed along the

coast, and European powers established forts and trading posts. British influence increased during the 19th century with the expansion of the British Empire in Africa, especially with The Royal Niger Company.

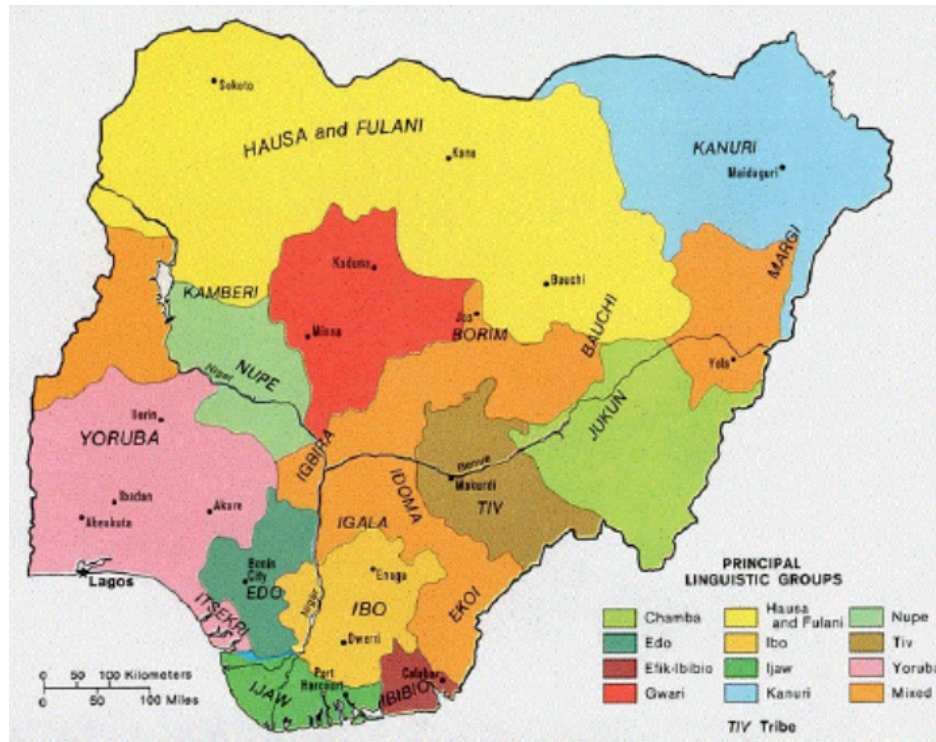
The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, where European powers partitioned Africa among themselves, formalized British control over their territories in Nigeria. Nigeria became a British colony, and colonial rule was characterized by the imposition of British administrative structures, legal systems, and the exploitation of natural resources. British indirect rule was implemented in parts of Nigeria, using local traditional rulers and institutions as intermediaries in governance. The period of colonization significantly impacted Nigeria's social, economic, and political landscape. In 1914, these British territories were formally united when the Northern and Southern Protectorates were amalgamated for economic and administrative efficiency. The amalgamation of diverse Nigerian cultural groups exacerbated tensions within these groups, laying the foundation for some of the challenges that Nigeria would face post-independence.

Nigeria Gained Independence

On October 1, 1960, Nigeria achieved independence from Britain and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa served as the inaugural federal prime minister, while Nnamdi Azikiwe assumed the ceremonial role of president of the Senate. On October 1, 1963, Nigeria became a republic with Azikiwe as its president. After a brief honeymoon period, Nigeria's enduring regional tensions, stemming from ethnic competition, educational disparities, and economic inequality resurfaced during the contentious census of 1962–63. In an effort to mitigate ethnic conflicts, the Mid-West region of Nigeria was established in 1963 through the division of the Western region. Despite this partition, the region remained divided into three main parts, each ruled by a major ethnic group.

Major Ethnic Groups

The three most prominent Nigerian ethnic groups at the time were the Hausa-Fulani of the north, the Yoruba of the southwest, and Igbo of the southeast, with the Nigerian Civil War fought between the Hausa-Fulani and Igbo.



The Hausa-Fulani of the North speak Hausa and Fulfulde, are predominantly Islamic, and support their economy through agriculture and trade. They hold the most political power out of any group after Nigeria's recent independence, but they are wary of losing control. The Hausa-Fulani gained such power because the British's past policy of indirect rule in the north allowed leaders, who were often Hausa-Fulani, to retain some authority under British oversight while the south experienced more direct colonial administration, and the Northern People's Congress (NPC), a political party based in northern Nigeria and led by the Hausa-Fulani elites, was a dominant force in 1960 who formed alliances with other political powers, propelling them to dominance at the federal level. The

newly-formed republic of Nigeria granted the Northern region more chairs in the parliament than the Eastern and Western regions combined, which resulted in the Hausa-Fulani's political dominance.

The second ethnic group, the Igbo, rooted in the Kingdom of Nri, are located in Southeastern Nigeria and live in small decentralized and democratic settlements. They speak the Igbo language, follow the Odinani religion, and are known for trade and commerce. Ever since Nigeria gained independence on October 1st, 1960, the Igbo people have felt increasingly excluded from political power because they feel that their national government can not thrive with the dominant federal system led by the Hausa-Fulani. Additionally, Igboland is home to the majority of Nigeria's massive oil reserves, which are highly coveted by foreign countries, especially Britain and France.

The third group, the Yoruba of the southwest, speak Yoruba, practice a mix of Islam, Christianity, and traditional Yoruba beliefs, and support their economy through agriculture, artistry, and trade. They hold varied support for the Hausa-Fulani and Igbo throughout their conflict; While some Yoruba leaders feel sympathy for the Biafran (Igbo) cause, others support the Nigerians (Hausa-Fulani), reflecting the diverse political and social opinions of the Yoruba group.

Leading up to the War

In 1964, the government in the west collapsed, bringing the country to the brink of disintegration. The southern regions complained of northern dominance, while the north had concerns about the southern elite's ambitions for power. The situation reached a critical point in January 1966 when, following disorder in the west after the fraudulent October 1965 election, a group of army officers attempted to overthrow the federal government in The Coup of the Five Majors. Prime Minister Balewa and two regional premiers were assassinated, leading to the establishment of a military administration under Maj. Gen. Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi, whose proposal to eliminate the regions and impose a unitary government sparked riots in the north, worsening the political turmoil. Military intervention further complicated matters as the army splintered along ethnic lines, officers clashed over power, and the orchestrators of the coup were accused of favoring Igbo dominance. Because these officers were mostly Igbos and they killed prominent politicians of the north, Northern suspicions of the Igbos' orchestration grew into belief. The evidence included that 4 out of the 5 coup plotters were Igbo and no significant Igbo leader was killed in the coup. Additionally, the president, who was Igbo, escaped the coup because of a suspiciously-timed holiday. This aftermath of The Coup of Five Majors included ethnic divisions within the army, power struggles among officers, and violence against Igbos.

By 1966, many Nigerans resented the ruling elite for their lavish lifestyle and lack of concern for the masses, and that same year northern officers executed a counter coup, resulting in the assassination of Nigeria's Head of State General Aguiyi-Ironsi and Lt. Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi, and resulting in the appointment of Lt. Colonel Yakubu Gowon as Head of State. The crisis deepened clashes in the north and the emergence of secession threats in the south. Furthermore, Gowon's decision to split Nigeria into twelve states with little autonomy was the last straw for many southeasterners.

Beginnings of the War

On May 30, 1967, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, the leader of Biafra, announced the separation of the three states in the Eastern region, forming the Republic of Biafra. Although Biafrans saw their secession as a reconciliation with the pre-colonial sovereignty of the region and a new beginning, the Nigerian government saw it as a rebellious act. The Nigerians were concerned about potential Nigerian humanitarian crises, loss of economically valuable oil, and that the secession of Biafra would serve as a precedent for other groups to follow. Five weeks after Ojukwu declared Biafra as an independent state, the Nigerian Civil War began on July 6th, 1967.



Despite being outgunned and outmanned, General Ojukwu was optimistic about Biafra's wartime strength, believing that the Nigerians would be surprised by his army's abilities in the war. However, the ramifications of the civil war were immediately felt as the Nigerian government responded with military force, resulting in a devastating conflict.

The conflict quickly devolved into a humanitarian catastrophe, with widespread displacement, food shortages, and the tragic Biafran famine of 1968-1970, which killed an estimated 2 million Biafran civilians. The blockade imposed by the Nigerian government worsened the situation, leading to a dire lack of essential supplies. Media played an important role in this war, as it swayed the opinions of the international public. It was during this period that images of starving Biafran children were televised around the world, gaining sympathy from some countries.

What Now?

It is 1967 and as the committee convenes to address the ongoing conflict between Nigeria and the secessionist state of Biafra. Both sides are grappling with significant challenges, and the decisions made by delegates will have far-reaching consequences for the future of the conflict and the people affected by it.

Nigerians find themselves engaged in a drawn out conflict against the secessionist forces of Biafra, and their federal government strives to maintain territorial integrity and suppress the rebellion, resulting in logistical challenges, internal dissent, and international pressure.

Biafrans are struggling to assert the sovereignty of their newly declared state amid military offensives, humanitarian crises, and diplomatic isolation, with their leaders seeking international recognition and support while utilizing resources to sustain their population amidst blockades and sieges.

The international community faces the challenge of providing aid and mediation efforts while addressing the complex geopolitical dimensions of the conflict. Due to political, social, and mostly economic reasons, the sides that foreign powers took in the Nigerian Civil War vary widely.

Both Nigeria and Biafra aim to secure foreign support in hopes of gaining military aid and the support from the public that may help them win the war.

Questions to Consider

1. For Biafran or Nigerian leaders, how can you explore diplomatic avenues to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict? Dialogue, negotiation, and mediation could offer opportunities to achieve a ceasefire, facilitate humanitarian access, and lay the groundwork for a political agreement.
2. For international figures, what can you do to advance your country's political, social, and economic positions? How does intervening in this war affect those positions?
3. How can you address the urgent humanitarian needs of civilians caught in the conflict by prioritizing the delivery of humanitarian aid and protection of civilians in order to mitigate the impact of the crisis?
4. How will your actions affect regional dynamics and the interests of neighboring countries? Consider the affect of regional mediation efforts, refugee movements, and cross-border implications of the conflict on the surrounding region's stability and security.
5. How will you promote long-term vs. short-term stability? Within this dire disaster, delegates must envision a sustainable path towards long-term stability and reconciliation in Nigeria and the wider region. This may involve addressing underlying grievances, promoting inclusive governance, and fostering dialogue between conflicting parties to prevent future conflicts.

Pathways Forward

Delegates are encouraged to collaborate across party lines to explore creative solutions and de-escalate tensions. Through strategic diplomacy, crisis management, and decisive action, delegates have the power to shape the outcome of the Nigerian Civil War committee, leaving a lasting impact on the trajectory of the conflict and the lives of those affected by it. As delegates navigate through the complexities of the Nigerian Civil War simulation, they must remain committed to upholding the principles of peace, justice, and human rights, striving to forge a path towards a brighter and more inclusive future for all groups involved.

Committee Positions

Note to delegates: Please read both your own role and the roles of other delegates prior to the conference.

Nigerian Room

Yakubu Gowon - Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria

Yakubu Gowon was a Nigerian army general and head of state during the Nigerian Civil War. He rose to power following the 1966 counter-coup and faced the daunting task of unifying a nation fractured by ethnic and regional tensions. His efforts were focused on preserving Nigeria's territorial integrity and fostering national reconciliation.

Hassan Katsina - Chief of Army Staff and Governor of the Northern Region

Katsina was appointed as the Military Governor of Northern Nigeria after the 1966 coup and accepted the new government led by Gowon. During the Nigerian Civil war, Katsina was involved with conversations between Nigeria and Biafra as well as conducting military missions.

Colonel Joseph Wey - Vice President of Nigeria

Wey was a key figure in the Nigerian Civil War who served as the head of the Nigerian Navy, foreign minister, and eventually vice president. Under his leadership, the 3rd Marine Commando played a crucial role in several major offensives, including the recapture of strategic locations from Biafran forces.

Dr. Okoi Arikpo - Foreign Minister of Nigeria

Arikpo served as the Foreign Minister of Nigeria during the Nigerian Civil War. He was responsible for managing Nigeria's diplomatic relations and representing the country's interests on the international stage. Arikpo played a key role in garnering international support for Nigeria's position during the conflict.

Colonel Murtala Muhammed - Commander of the Nigerian 2nd Infantry Division

Muhammed was a prominent military leader who played a crucial role in planning and executing military operations against Biafra and the 1966 counter-coup. Muhammed joined the Nigerian Army in 1958 and rose through the ranks quickly, becoming one of the youngest generals in Nigeria by 1971.

Colonel Benjamin Adekunle - Commander of the 3rd Marine Commando Division

Benjamin Adekunle, also known as "the Black Scorpion," was a senior Nigerian military officer during the Nigerian Civil War known for his aggressive tactics. He commanded the 3rd Marine Commando Division, which played a crucial role in several key battles.

General Adeyinka Adebayo - Governor of Nigeria's Western Region

As governor, Adebayo played a role in coordinating the region's support for the Nigerian federal government and ensuring stability in the Western region during the conflict. He also held the positions of Chief of Staff of the Nigerian Army and Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy.

Brigadier General Mobolaji Johnson - Military Governor of Lagos State

As Governor of Lagos State, Johnson was responsible for managing the state's affairs during this tumultuous period and ensuring stability in Lagos, which was a key strategic location during the conflict.

Chief Anthony Enahoro - Political Leader

Anthony Enahoro was a prominent Nigerian nationalist and politician during the Nigerian Civil War. Enahoro was involved in advocating for peace and reconciliation between the warring factions. He also played a role in post-war reconstruction and reconciliation efforts.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo - Vice Chairman of the Federal Executive Council and the Federal Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development

Awolowo was a key political figure in Nigeria during the Nigerian Civil War. Awolowo played a significant role in managing the economic aspects of the war effort and advocating for the use of economic measures to weaken Biafra's war effort.

Mohammed Shuwa - Commander of the Nigerian Army's 1st Division

Shuwa played a significant role in the conflict as one of the top military commanders. He was appointed as the Commander of the Nigerian Army's 1st Division, which was tasked with combating secessionist forces in the Northern region of Nigeria.

Nigerian International Support

Each of these individuals played a significant role in shaping international diplomacy and policy during the Nigerian Civil War, representing their respective countries' interests and influencing the course of the conflict.

Yuli Vorontsov - Soviet Union Ambassador to Nigeria

Vorontsov served as the Soviet Union's ambassador to Nigeria during the Nigerian Civil War. In this role, he represented Soviet interests in Nigeria and supported the Nigerian federal government against the secessionist state of Biafra.

Sir Francis Cummings-Bruce - British High Commissioner to Nigeria

Sir Francis Cummings-Brue represented the United Kingdom, one of Nigeria's main supporters and previous colonial overlord. The UK controlled about 90% of Nigeria's valuable oil reserves and wanted to protect that economic resource.

Elbert G. Matthews - United States Ambassador to Nigeria

Matthews represented the United States' interests in Nigeria and played a key role in managing bilateral relations between the two countries during the conflict. Matthews was responsible for conveying U.S. policy towards Nigeria, including humanitarian aid and diplomatic support for Nigeria's unity. He was involved in efforts to address the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict.

Mahmoud Riad - Egypt Foreign Minister

During the Nigerian Civil War, Mahmoud Riad served as the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now known as the African Union (AU). Riad navigated complex political landscapes, including the Nigerian Civil War, where he sought peaceful solutions and promoted African solidarity. Riad was also involved in diplomatic efforts to mediate the conflict.

Biafran Room

Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu - President of Biafra

Serving as the President of the Republic of Biafra, Ojukwu led the secessionist movement and declared Biafra's independence from Nigeria, sparking the Nigerian Civil War. As a former Nigerian military officer, Ojukwu's decision to lead Biafra's secession was influenced by his deep-seated concerns over the political and economic marginalization of the Igbo people.

Major Philip Effiong - Vice President of Biafra

Effiong played a key role in the Biafran military and served as Ojukwu's second-in-command. Rising through the ranks in the Nigerian Army, Effiong became Chief of General Staff in Biafra. His military background and strategic acumen made him instrumental in coordinating Biafra's defense efforts and diplomatic negotiations.

Colonel Joseph Achuzie - Biafran Military Leader

As a senior Biafran military commander, Achuzie played a crucial role in several key battles during the civil war, including the defense of Owerri and the famous Abagana Ambush, showcasing strategic prowess and bravery, earning him the nickname "Air Raid."

Colonel Ejike Aghanya - Officer in the Biafran Army

Aghanya served in various capacities within the Biafran military hierarchy, including commanding troops and participating in strategic planning. Aghanya played a crucial role in several battles and military campaigns during the conflict.

C. Odumegwu Ojukwu Jr. - Biafran Diplomat

As the son of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, Ojukwu Jr. played a key role in Biafra's diplomatic efforts, seeking international recognition and support for the secessionist state during the civil war.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku - Biafran Diplomat

Anyaoku served as a diplomat for Biafra during the civil war, engaging in efforts to secure international recognition and support for the secessionist state. Anyaoku advocated for Biafra's recognition and support within the international community. His diplomatic efforts aimed to secure humanitarian assistance and diplomatic recognition for Biafra's sovereignty.

Chief Jerome Udoji - Biafran Minister of Information

Udoji was the head of the Nigerian Civil Service and was responsible for implementing policies that impacted the war effort, including managing resources and personnel. Udoji's role in disseminating information about Biafra's struggle to the international community helped garner sympathy and support for the secessionist state.

Professor Chinua Achebe - Cultural Ambassador

Achebe was a renowned Nigerian writer and intellectual who served as a cultural ambassador for Biafra during the civil war. He worked to raise awareness about the plight of the Igbo people and the Biafran cause through his writings and public speeches.

Dr. Felix Nwankwo Oragwu - Biafran Minister of Information

Dr. Oragwu played a crucial role in managing communication strategies, both domestically and internationally, to garner support for the secessionist state. His efforts in shaping

public opinion and maintaining morale among Biafran civilians and soldiers were instrumental during the challenging period of the war.

Biafran International Support

Each of these individuals played a significant role in shaping international diplomacy and policy during the Nigerian Civil War, representing their respective countries' interests and influencing the course of the conflict.

Jacques Foccart - French Presidential Adviser on African Affairs

As an advisor to French presidents, Foccart played a significant role in coordinating France's support for Biafra, including the provision of military assistance and diplomatic support. He worked to advance French interests in Africa and maintain French influence in the region, often through covert operations and diplomacy.

Che Guevara - Cuban Revolutionary

Guevara expressed solidarity with Biafra and offered ideological support for their struggle against Nigerian aggression. His revolutionary principles resonated with Biafra's quest for self-determination and inspired solidarity movements worldwide.

Arie Eliav - Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria

Eliav was instrumental in Israel's support for Biafra, facilitating arms shipments and providing military training. He worked closely with Biafran leaders and Israeli officials to coordinate assistance to the secessionist state.

Henrique Galvão - Portuguese Military Officer

Galvão was a key figure in Portugal's support for Biafra, organizing arms shipments and providing military expertise. He played a crucial role in Portugal's covert support for Biafra during the civil war.

Huang Zhen - Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria

Zhen played a diplomatic role in supporting Biafra and he facilitated the delivery of humanitarian aid from China to Biafra, including food and medicine, which was crucial for the war-torn region. Huang Zhen's actions were in line with China's anti-imperialist stance.

Sven Olof Joachim Palme - Swedish Politician

Palme supported Biafra by advocating for humanitarian aid to be sent to the region. His visit to Biafra in 1969 drew international attention to the humanitarian crisis in the region. Palme also later became the Prime Minister of Sweden

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