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156. ECOWAS Committee of Five, Final Communiqué of the Informal Consultative Group Meeting, Geneva, 7 April 1992

[1.] An informal Consultative Group meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Five on Liberia took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 7 April 1992 at the invitation and under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. Present at the meeting were the following Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives:

- His Excellency Blaise Compaore,
President of Faso, Head of Government, Burkina Faso
- His Excellency Félix Houphouët-Boigny,
President of Côte d'Ivoire
- His Excellency Abdou Diouf,
President of the Republic of Senegal
- Honourable Admiral Augustus Aikhomu,
Vice-President, representing the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

2. Also present at the consultations were:

- His Excellency Dr. Amos C. Sawyer,
President of the Interim Government of Liberia
- Mr. Charles Taylor,
Head of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL)

Outcome of Deliberations

Developments since the last Meeting of the Committee of Five

3. The Consultative Group reviewed developments relating to the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Accord signed on 30 October 1991. The Group noted such positive developments as the appointment of the members of the Interim Elections Commission and the ad hoc Supreme Court, the completion of reconnaissance visits by ECOMOG to the areas held by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), and the opening of some of the trunk roads in Liberia. However, many other important aspects of the Yamoussoukro Accord had remained unimplemented, particularly those relating to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border, and the encampment and disarmament of all combatants.

Reaffirmation of the Yamoussoukro Accord

4. The Group's discussion was characterised by a new spirit of constructive dialogue. The Group reaffirmed the validity of the Yamoussoukro Accord of 30 October 1991 as offering the best possible framework for a peaceful resolution of the Liberian conflict, for creating the necessary conditions of peace and security and the proper atmosphere that would conduct free, fair and democratic elections in Liberia. It therefore called on all the parties concerned, in particular the NPFL, to repose trust and confidence in ECOMOG and to co-operate fully with ECOMOG to ensure, without any further delay, the speedy, uninterrupted and effective implementation of the Accord.

5. The Group requested the parties to refrain from any act or omission that might be prejudicial to the implementation of the Accord; the meeting agreed to make the following clarifications:

- (a) That the buffer zone on the Liberia-Sierra Leone border envisioned by the Accord should be established without further delay. ECOMOG alone shall secure the zone. NPFL may send unarmed observers to the zone.
- (b) That all entry and exit points into and out of Liberia, in particular the seaports and airports, shall be secured by ECOMOG. NPFL may maintain an unarmed administrative presence at these points through police, customs and immigration in the areas under its control.
- (c) That the encampment and disarmament of all combatants shall be carried out by ECOMOG as envisioned in the Yamoussoukro Accord.
- (d) That Mr. Charles Taylor may maintain a personal security of company strength equipped only with small arms but without RPGs.

6. In the light of the foregoing clarifications, the meeting directed the Field Commander of ECOMOG to implement the Yamoussoukro Accord without any further delay.

Vote of Thanks

7. The meeting expressed its appreciation to His Excellency Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for the reception and hospitality accorded to all delegations and for the facilities made available for the meeting.

Done at Geneva this Seventh day of April, 1992

(Signed): His Excellency Blaise Compaore,
President of Faso, Head of Government, Burkina Faso

His Excellency Félix Houphouët-Boigny,
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

His Excellency Abdou Diouf,
President of the Republic of Senegal

Honourable Admiral Augustus Aikhomu,
Vice-President, Representing the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Dr. Amos Sawyer,
President of the Interim Government of Liberia

Mr. Charles Taylor,
Head of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL)

Annex

ECOMOG

Programme of Implementation

Complementary to the activities already carried out in the "Programme of Implementation" in the Yamoussoukro Accord of 30 October 1991, the following target dates are set for ECOMOG. A new date for commencement of ECOMOG operations has been set for 30 April 1992, to give time for preparations by all parties to allow for unobstructed encampment and disarmament of the

warring factions and all other activities that will provide an atmosphere of peace and security for the conduct of free and fair elections in Liberia.

April 1992

30 - ECOMOG operations commence

May 1992

6 - ECOMOG completes the occupation of the buffer zone between Liberia and Sierra Leone

11 - All seaports including Buchanan, Greenville and Harper to be secured by ECOMOG

14 - ECOMOG secures all airports/airfields

16 - All road blocks maintained by all factions to be dismantled

18 - Encampment and disarmament of all warring factions commences at all selected sites. Documentation of personnel, weapons and ammunition as well as crating and storage of weapons at designated centres run concurrently

20 - Confirmatory ECOMOG patrols commence

June 1992

1 - Only ECOMOG and Mr. Charles Taylor's Security Company shall bear arms after 1 June 1992

8 - Completion of encampment/disarmament of all factions and crating and documentation of all weapons