

Even so, most of the rural areas visited still had received inadequate attention.

b) The refugee population in the Ibo heartland centres was dispersing throughout the Eastern Central State. With their increased population, towns such as Onitsha, Enugu, Umuahia, Okigwi require increased relief.

c) Although the general relief situation had improved, there was still a critical requirement for additional transportation to distribute supplies and move refugees in the war-affected areas.

d) Law and order had been effectively restored in the Third Marine Commando Division, which enables the relief programme to progress unhampered by the problems witnessed on the previous visit.

On January 28, the Team met with the administrator of the Eastern Central State, and on January 31, met with the Chairman of the Reha Committee of Midwest State. The relief and rehabilitation policy and situation were discussed.

Currency:

The Team found that throughout the war-affected area there was little federal money. People living under the secessionist regime had been using "biafran" currency for thirty months (although small amounts of federal currency were always in use). Up to the end of the Civil War this currency was so inflated that it became virtually worthless. When the secessionist regime collapsed, so did the "biafran" pound, leaving the bulk of the population penniless. The Team found that, even at the height of the relief crisis, there was food for sale in the markets and streets but there was no money with which to buy it.

The Team considers that one of the most pressing problems is to get money circulating. To facilitate this, the provision of: (a) banking facilities; (b) special loans or grants to farmers to enable them to purchase seedlings and stock to make them self-sufficient; (c) pay of federal employees (including troops) in small notes and coins, and (d) a small federal grant per impoverished refugee family, based on family size, would help.