

On January 12, 1970 the Federal Military Government issued orders that the troops were to remain where they were until they received redeployment instructions. During the extensive tour of the Third Marine Commando Division area, January 17 to 22, 1970, the Team observed that these orders were not being implemented in all cases. This indiscipline hampered relief operations and restoration of law and order. Some factors contributing to this were lack of communications, lack of transportation and the lack of experience of junior leaders.

In the areas visited after the cessation of hostilities, the Team heard charges of rape. In some cases these charges were fully justified. However, where girls seen with federal troops were questioned, the term "enforced marriage" proved to be more appropriate. The General Officer Commanding of the Third Marine Commando Division issued strong orders to his commanders in the forward areas to implement drastic summary punishment for rape and looting. Instances of such punishment being carried out were reported to the Team.

During the final inspection tour of the divisional areas, the Team found a vast improvement in discipline and law and order. Although carrying arms, the First Division and the Second Division troops were under control and still manning their positions. The First Division had relieved elements of the Third Marine Commando Division and were manning the line Ihiala-Orlu-Oki-Gwi-Umuahia-Bende-Arochuku. The Third Marine Commando Division was under control, and in temporary barracks. Almost all soldiers seen were unarmed. The troops of this Division were seen on route marches, drilling and on physical training and sports. Civilian police who had taken over the manning of road blocks on roads entering Owerri and Aba, were collecting vehicles and possessions taken unlawfully by looters.

Prisoners of War (POW):

During the period under review, the Team visited the POW in Port Harcourt, Ikot-Ekpene, Enugu, Asaba, Ogwashi-Uku Prison, Kiri-Kiri Prison, Yakubu Gowon Street Prison, Ikoyi Prison, Benin Prison, in unit guard rooms and temporary POW camps where they were awaiting transport to