

Introduction:

The Observer Team visited all divisional areas during the period of this report. The Civil War ended while the Team was on tour in the areas of the First Division and Third Marine Commando Division. Although the formal conclusion of the Civil War was pronounced by the Head of State on January 15, 1970, two more tours were carried out by the Team - partially at the request of the Ministry of Defence and partially at our own request. The Federal Military Government considered our terms of reference were valid for the immediate post-war period with regard to the observation of the conduct of federal troops. The first visit concentrated on the area occupied by the Third Marine Commando Division. The final tour surveyed all divisional areas. Specific areas were visited where information had been received, reflecting upon the conduct of federal troops. Certain areas were revisited to ascertain whether conditions had improved.

The collapse of the secessionist forces started in late December. The federal troops captured key roads in the areas of the First Division and Third Marine Commando Division. This action cut vital lines of communication within the secessionist enclave. The capture of Owerri combined with coordinated federal pressure on all fronts forced the secessionists to surrender.

Genocide:

There was no evidence of genocide - intentional or planned systematic and wanton destruction of civilian lives or property - in the war zone. Continued accusations of intended genocide can only be interpreted as malicious disregard of the authenticated facts.

Conduct of the Federal Army:

Generally, the conduct of the Federal Army was as good as that of any army during and after a war. The Team found considerable damage in towns and villages, which could be directly attributed to the ravages of war. The Team saw and heard evidence of looting in the war - affected areas particularly during the period immediately after the cessation of hostilities. On five separate occasions the Team actually witnessed the arrest of personnel of the Third Marine Commando Division caught in the act of looting.