

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères
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Roundtable on Nigeria
February 19, 1987
Summary of Recommendations

The Roundtable on Nigeria was held as a result of Minister Steward's request for consultations with Commonwealth NGOs in preparation for the CMAC meetings in London on February 12, 1987.

Seventeen of the NGOs, including the Journalists Association, the Lawyers Association, the Human Rights Initiative, the Trades Union Council, the Royal Society and Judicial Education were represented along with departmental officials and ministerial staff. The Roundtable was chaired by Steve Lee, Director.

ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA:

**Recommendations for the
CMAG meeting (London)**

The NGOs were asked to comment on the current state of Canadian government's policy on Nigeria. They were also asked to address the capacity of NGOs and what services could play in helping the Nigerian people restore the rule of law.

In general, the NGOs agreed with the government's policy on Nigeria. They suggested however, that the government take a proactive approach by supporting Canadian NGO activities which enable communication between the civil societies and which could result eventually in putting an end to the human rights violations.

To this end several policy options were identified, that:

as currently two parallel courts have been set up, one judicial and one military, the Canadian government consider supporting the CBA and the O.A. in establishing links with the judiciary in Nigeria. This would assist the judiciary in both countries exchange information and expertise, and assist the Nigerian judiciary in their efforts to return the country to civil law.

the government consider asking Desmond Tutu, who led the last fact-finding mission to the prisons in Nigeria, to conduct a sermon at the St. Peter Cathedral on the Sunday prior to the New Edinburgh meetings.

that the Canadian government consider persuading the CMAC members to conduct a second tour of the prisons in Nigeria.

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