

(democratic government)".

Leaflets are a more effective medium for delivering political messages than newspapers, which tend to be read only by the elite.

III(c) Other International Linkages

The Hon. Flora MacDonald

CHOGM is a critical event for Nigeria's future and pressure can be brought to bear, but it requires steps to be taken in advance.

For example, major statements by well-known international organizations such as Amnesty International and by African human rights organizations such as FemNet in the time leading up to CHOGM will be important. PEN is another example. The message needs to get to heads of government that there is an active community. Continued suspension is likely but there is a need to ensure that this is not avoided.

Nigeria is heavily involved in Sierra Leone and the Roman Catholic Archbishop has expressed gratitude to Nigeria: Sierra Leone is not going to support increased sanctions. How many other countries will be in the same position? Consider the example of the UN rapporteur who resigned. Therefore, there has to be a strategy to single out key African countries who can be supported to take a stand against the Nigerian regime.

There is a concern about the role of Chief Anyoku and whether he believes the transition process is on track. He may be influencing others toward that view, especially some of the smaller countries.

It may be that CMAG is too large a group. Perhaps it should consist of 5 foreign ministers - one from each of the major regions plus the President and Vice-President of the conference, because they are in charge of the conference agenda.

Ms. MacDonald has concerns about the way human rights issues are evolving in certain Commonwealth countries, especially in East Asia. Attitudes about "Western values" and actions are being expressed in Malaysia, for example, that ought not to be brought into the Commonwealth. It will be important to look to other Asian countries such as India to shore up traditional Commonwealth values.

The Hon. Walter McLean

The Commonwealth has 4 northern, white countries. The rest are in the south. With global aid packages etc., the issue of southern solidarity becomes dangerous. It is important to ensure that human rights are not characterized as a northern issue.

A good governance forum was held in Addis Ababa on July 11: it produced a statement that good governance is the most critical issue facing African countries today. Half of the countries that took part are Commonwealth countries. They spoke of the importance of tradition and culture and came to a clear consensus on the importance of a range of values including transparency, civil society, judicial independence, rule of law, constitutional guarantees, and so on. Is there a linkage to some of the authors of that document? Will some of them be at CHOGM?

IV Assessing & Strengthening Democracy in Nigeria

Prof. Aaron Gana

There is widespread acceptance in Nigeria of the concept of democracy, but many Nigerians believe the military can give it to them. People don't understand what democracy means, beyond elections.

A survey conducted last March showed 95% of Nigerians believe that democracy is the best form of government for Nigeria, but only 3.5% are willing to work for its realization. The questions then becomes how to strengthen that 3.5% to help them actualize their aspirations for