

Roundtable on Nigeria  
February 10, 1997  
Summary of Recommendations

Dept. of Foreign Affairs  
Min. des Affaires étrangères

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The Roundtable on Nigeria was held as a result of Minister  
Minister Stewart's request for consultation with Commonwealth  
preparation for the CMAG meetings in London on February 17, 1997.

Several 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 the Roundtable was chaired by  
Steve Lee, Director of the Department of Canadian

**ROUNDTABLE ON NIGERIA**  
**-Summary and Recommendations-**  
**February 1997**  
**Canadian Centre for Foreign**  
**Policy Development**

The NGOs were asked to provide an assessment of Canadian  
government's policy on Nigeria and to also be asked to  
address the capacity and the role that other countries 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  
CLA 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. Giles Cathedral on the Sunday prior to the New Edinburgh meetings,  
and,

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

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