

APPENDIX

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN CANADIAN
AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADORS TO
UNITED NATIONS

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
866 United Nations Plaza,
New York, 10017.

October 24, 1968

Dear Ambassador,

My Minister, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, has asked me to enquire urgently about the role of churches in respect of relief supplies. One of the leading critics of the Government, Mr. Brewin, whom you will recall came to New York, and met with Dr. Arikpo, claims that he was told that the Federal Government would not oppose flights into rebel-held areas from Sao Tome by churches, using Canadian Hercules aircraft. This statement does not appear to have been made to Mr. Sharp himself but may have been made during the visit of certain Canadian Parliamentarians when they met the Commissioner for External Affairs.

Mr. Sharp would be very grateful if you could let him know, as a matter of urgency, whether in fact such a statement has been made or whether the Federal Nigerian Government would be likely to permit such an arrangement.

Yours sincerely,
George Ignatieff
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative.

His Excellency

Mr. E. O. Ogbu,
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative,
Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the
United Nations,
757 Third Ave., 20th Floor,

COPY New York, N.Y., 10017.

PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

757 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone: HAnover 1-2610
24th October, 1968

UN/S/130/161/

His Excellency Mr. George Ignatieff,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Canada to the United Nations,
866 United Nations Plaza,
New York 10017,
New York.

Dear Ambassador,

In reply to your letter of today's date, I am directed by Dr. Arikpo, Nigerian Commissioner for External Affairs, to inform you that neither he nor any other member of the Nigerian Delegation told the Canadian members of Parliament who met with Dr. Arikpo that the Federal Government would not oppose flights to rebel held areas from Sao Tome by churches, using Canadian Hercules aircraft. I am to inform you that the churches are operating at their own risk. For example, Caritas has been operating independently and the World Council of Churches operates under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross only when it suits them. The Federal Military Government has expressed its preference that all voluntary agencies operate under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This preference remains unchanged.

Yours sincerely,
(E. O. Ogbu)

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Permanent Representative