

Canada Hurt Over Charge By Nigeria

United Nations (CP) — Canadian officials said a charge by federal Nigeria's foreign affairs spokesman that Canadians are serving as mercenaries in breakaway Biafra was unproven.

Canadians here were visibly startled when Okoi Arikpo, Nigeria's external affairs minister, told the General Assembly that Canadians were among nationals of several Western nations fighting with the Biafrans in the Nigerian civil war.

Te unofficial attitude among members of the Canadian delegations was one of hurt. They pointed out that Canada has attempted to play a neutral role in the war and has poured millions of dollars of aid into the western African area.

Arikpo told the Assembly:

"There is no longer any secret from where the rebel regime which has no economic resources and which for two years had no export trade whatsoever, continues to obtain the hard currency to pay for the modern weapons it uses against the fatherland and with which it pays those mercenaries from Sweden, France, Canada, Portugal, Belgium, South Africa, Rhodesia, the United States of America and other Western countries . . ."

These "racist renegades and their compeers" had openly raised money in their own countries "with which they wage a war, often an aerial war, against Nigeria, and with which they finance and conduct a campaign of villification" aimed at dismembering Nigeria.

Canadian officials were clearly taken aback by Arikpo's speech.

External Affairs Minister Sharp had talked with Arikpo only last week and it was reported the Nigerian had given no indication he would make such a statement.

Sharp also discussed the Biafran question with Nigeria, representatives of Biafra and other African countries who support the Biafran cause while he was here.

There were indications that Canada was still seeking clarification of the Nigerian position and it was reported that the Canadian mission here was in touch with the external affairs department in Ottawa shortly after Arikpo's speech.

About two hours after the Nigerian spoke, the Canadian mission issued a statement saying the charge Canadians are serving as mercenaries had not been proven.

The statement said the Canadian government knew of none of its nationals who had served as mercenaries for Biafra in the past or were serving now. It said one or two Canadians could have been mercenaries in the past, but Ottawa had never heard of it.

The statement also said said Canada had never encouraged nor condoned such activities.

While nobody would say so officially, it was apparent that Canadian officials here were stung by the fact that Arikpo had mentioned Canada in the context of supporting Biafra in its struggle against the federal government. In fact, they said, Canada has gone down the line in supporting the Organization of African Unity's position that the Nigerian question should be settled in Africa by Africans.

It was also apparent that

the Canadians considered the reference to its nationals serving as mercenaries unjustified in light of Canada's humanitarian efforts to help civilian casualties in the 2½ year civil war.

In his speech, Arikpo also said Lagos had never and would never stand in the way of relief supplies to civilian victims in the war.

"But it must remain the understanding of my government that humanitarianism concerns itself primarily with human being, with the sufferings of individuals, and not with states and governments," he added.

ELECT . . .

ROBERT G.

HARRIS

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LIVING HABITS OF ESKIMOS SHOW CIVILIZATION IMPACT

erners' impact on the Eskimo shows up in things like poor teeth from candy and soft drinks and a fairly rapid change in his living habits, a Canadian research team has demonstrated.

Perhaps a more significant finding in the study of Eskimo response to a swiftly-changing world is a greatly accelerated growth in population.

These preliminary findings were made public Friday from Canadian participation in a five-year, four-nation study of Eskimo communities on the ancient migration route from Alaska to Greenland. The United States, France and Denmark are the other countries.

The Canadian team put the 735 Eskimos of Igloodik under the microscope. Igloodik is a coastal settlement on the northern tip of Milville Peninsula, which juts northward toward Baffin Island, about 750 miles north of Churchill, Man.

Some findings:

● Physical and dental health is good with tuberculosis less significant than expected; no gross malnutrition but poorer teeth among the children than the adults. The latter

finding is attributed to soft drinks and candy introduced as part of a shift to western food.

● The population under age 16 soared to 56 per cent of the total community from 34 per cent in 1961.

● Less than half live in summer camps, against 80 per cent in 1961, and they are increasingly moving into houses provided in a building program of the northern development department.

● Alcohol is not yet a serious problem in Igloodik, as it is elsewhere in Eskimo communities.

● Only four Eskimos were classed as obese, attributed to biochemical disorders. Generally they remained muscular and stocky with a noticeable tendency to tan to almost Negro skin color in summer.

FIRED OVER HAIR

Deborah Renwick has been dismissed by United Airlines after the stewardess refused to shorten the length of her hair style. The airline said the hairdo failed to meet standards.

ELECT

Larry Glass

TO THE

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