

including President Micombero, it was stressed by both sides that the good relations between our two countries are founded on the basis of mutual respect for each other's views and our mutual interest in seeing Burundi's continued economic progress. In Burundi, as elsewhere on my trip, I was impressed by the serious and effective manner in which the country is concentrating its efforts on solving the problem of economic development.

*Uganda (July 3-4).*—I was most pleased to renew my acquaintance with Uganda, which is making impressive progress. The contrast in the excellence of southern Uganda's road system with the underdeveloped routes in the adjacent areas is indeed dramatic and illustrative of how importantly transportation looms in the economies of African countries. From southwestern Uganda I flew to the capital, Kampala, where I had discussions with President Obote and Foreign Minister Odaka. Uganda had recently played host to peace talks between the Government of Nigeria and breakaway Biafra. I was able to learn at firsthand of the constructive efforts of President Obote and Foreign Minister Odaka to contribute to a constructive solution to the Nigerian problem.

*Senegal (June 8-11).*—After a visit to Nigeria, on which I will comment in a minute, my last stop in Africa was Dakar, where I had a most friendly and encouraging meeting with President Senghor and other Senegalese leaders. Our modest aid program in Senegal is making a definite contribution to the country's development and is greatly appreciated by the President and the people. Faced with a problem of student and worker riots in late May, President Senghor is now busily engaged in dealing with the causes of this unrest. As it was everywhere in Africa, my reception in Senegal was a concrete demonstration of the friendly feelings the leaders and people of Africa have for the United States and their sincere desire to develop close and friendly relations with us.

*Nigeria.*—My visit to Lagos, July 4-8, as well as brief stops in Paris, Geneva and London en route to the United States at the end of my trip, permitted me to gauge more accurately the dimensions of the tragic problem which besets Nigeria and to talk with officials—such as those of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva—concerning methods of rapidly extending humanitarian help to those who are innocently suffering as a result of the hostilities. I return from this trip even more impressed both by the seriousness of the problem, the necessity of reestablishing peace in this war torn country and the urgent need for immediate humanitarian assistance to its civilians, especially its children.

General Gowan emphasized to me his strong desire to reach a peaceful settlement and his willingness, which was subsequently communicated to the Red Cross and OAU, to facilitate the movement of humanitarian supplies to the affected areas. It is my strong hope that Colonel Ojukwu will respond to the Red Cross and OAU urgings to make this possible.

The tragedy of the civil war which continues to rage in Nigeria, and particularly the suffering of innocent civilians on both sides, was the source of great concern among virtually all the African leaders with whom I talked. Their overwhelming desire, like ours, is for the earliest possible end to the war and the suffering. Many of them have been working behind the scenes toward that goal for some time, and now the efforts of the Consultative Committee on Nigeria of the Organization of African Unity, composed of the heads of state of Cameroon, the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia and Niger, appear to have made significant progress.

We are of course greatly encouraged by the news from Niamey over the weekend that both sides have now agreed to resume negotiations to end the war. Preliminary discussions are to take place in Niamey, with President Diiori of Niger as chairman. Then, when the details are worked out, substantive talks are to follow in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the OAU Committee, of which Emperor Haile Selassie is chairman. Although serious differences continue, we are hopeful that these talks will fare better than those earlier and bring an end to casualties and destruction.

This will require a high degree of statesmanship, tolerance and realism. I found everywhere on my trip a growing alarm over the Nigerian conflict, however, and a growing conviction that Africans must help solve it. We share that view and believe that the talks scheduled in Addis Ababa are an important step in that direction. We hope fervently for the success of these talks.

Of even more immediate urgency is the problem of getting relief supplies to the suffering on both sides. Although the political impasse which prevents free movement of relief supplies into the secessionist area has not yet been fully overcome, a major relief effort by the International Committee of the Red Cross is under way. That effort has the full cooperation and support of the United States Government, as well as many other governments and private voluntary organizations.