

NIGERIA GHANA ACCORD



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Brigadier Akwasi Afrifa inspecting a Guard of honour on arrival at Ikeja Airport.
Behind him is the Chief of Staff (Nigerian Army) Brigadier Hassan!Katsina.





Smiles all round as H.E. General Gowon ushers his host Brigadier Afrifa to the V.I.P. Lounge.

PREFACE

THE visit of Brigadier Akwasi Amankwa Afrifa, Chairman of the National Liberation Council of Ghana, to Nigeria and the spontaneous and almost immediate return visit of Major-General Yakubu Gowon, Head of the Federal Military Government, to Ghana are both significant and favourable augury of the future relationship between the two great countries.

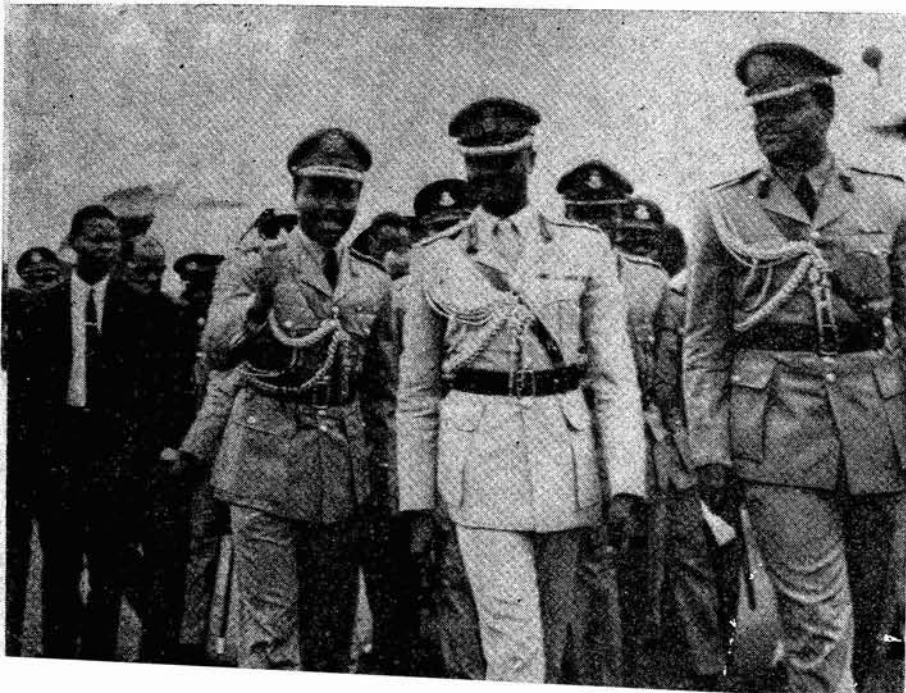
The significance of these memorable visits stems from the fact that long before Europeans came to Africa, the peoples on the West Coast of Africa had close links founded on friendship and goodwill. Under colonial rule, relations between Nigeria and Ghana was interdependent. Indeed, at one time, Nigeria shared with Ghana the same currency, the same judiciary, the same administrative machinery and the same problems. In fact, Ghana (then Gold Coast) and Nigeria were almost the same country and the same people, until independence came with its many problems. Politicians were in the saddle, and rode the people with near-reckless abandon. Relationships between the two countries became almost artificial taking attitude, as it were, from the whims and caprices—nay, ambitions—of our erstwhile political leaders.

But the ties and family connections in both countries have a lasting depth. Thus, like twins, the destiny of Ghana and Nigeria have followed the same course with different patterns peculiar to the political climate of each country. Each had pursued a course dictated by the force of circumstances and the revelation of events.

The Nigeria military coup d'etat in January 1966, was—as if pre-arranged—quickly followed by a Ghana military coup d'etat in February of the same year. In both countries the inevitable happened more by the dictate of destiny than by the machinations of politicians.

Under military rule both countries have moved closer together again and the talks between the two young Heads of State are reassuring and indicative of a definite and genuine move on both sides to ensure that whatever had happened in the past would strengthen our deep-rooted bonds and cement a cordial, harmonious and friendly relationship for all time.

Distinguished guest of honour Brigadier Akwasi Afrifa flanked by his distinguished host, Head of State H.E. Gen. Yakubu Gowon (left) and the Military Governor, Lagos State, Col. Mobolaji Johnson





Gen. Gowon delivering his formal address of welcome

FAITH IN UNITY

THE visit of Brigadier Afrifa offered the Ghanaian and Nigerian leaders an opportunity to stress the need for friendship and co-operation between their two countries. Both leaders traced the long traditional, cultural and economic ties between Nigeria and Ghana which they hold dear and wish to preserve in the larger interests of all Africa.

Welcoming Brigadier Afrifa to Nigeria, General Gowon declared: "Ghana and Nigeria must have greater understanding and co-operation, and work closely together both in our bilateral and Pan-African interest. Let there be no rivalry but brotherhood and understanding at all levels and at all times in the interest of greater Africa of today and tomorrow."

Replying, Brigadier Afrifa said, "Nigeria is a great African country inhabited by a great people with whom we share a common destiny."



General Gowon confers with Foreign Affairs Commissioner, Dr Okoi Arikpo during his talks with Brigadier Afrifa.

He added: "We need hardly remind ourselves that the traditional friendship between our two countries has been founded on years of close commercial and cultural ties. It is a country with which we in Ghana share a common colonial past and common aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity for our people."

Brigadier Afrifa remarked with satisfaction that within three years that the National Liberation Council of Ghana had been in office Ghana and Nigeria had significantly moved towards close association and better understanding of their common problems. Full texts of both statements are here reproduced.

HISTORIC AND UNIQUE

Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you on your first official visit to Nigeria. Your visit today is both historic and unique; historic because this is the first time I believe that two Sandhurst graduates from the same Company, Normandy Company, are meeting as Heads of State of their respective countries, and unique, because it gives us the chance to work on a better future relations between our two countries. Brief as the visit is, yet I am glad that you have been able to find the time to honour my invitation to pay us a visit today, in spite of the undoubtedly heavy demands on your time, particularly at this period that your country is about to change-over to a civilian Government.

We in Nigeria are following with keen interest the steps the National Liberation Council is taking to return to civilian administration. It is our fervent hope and prayer that the civilian Government that will emerge will usher in a period of prosperity, stability and happiness for Ghana and its peoples. Your successful transition from military to civilian rule will no doubt provide useful guide lines to many a coun-

The Ghanaian Head of State, Brigadier Afrifa, with members of his delegation, at talks with his Nigerian counterpart, General Gowon, in Lagos.



Nigeria's first Lady Mrs Victoria Gowon shares in the joy of welcoming Brigadier Akwasi Afrifa to Lagos



try in Africa in the future. I wish to offer you and the National Liberation Council my congratulations for your efforts to bring this change about on schedule.

As you are aware, it is also our ultimate goal to restore civilian rule to this country after we shall have dealt with the problems of rebellion and secession. Our critics do not give us a chance to succeed. Posterity will be our judge.

After the past experience of civilian administration in our two countries we cannot but ensure that, as far as humanly possible, only people of highest moral standing and integrity are entrusted to run the future affairs of our States.

Your Excellency's visit is a confirmation of your true and sincere interest in the unity of this country. We deeply appreciate your absolute support and that of the Government of Ghana for the cause of the Federal Military Government. As we are all aware, most African countries contain several ethnic groups and share the same problem like us, of maintaining national unity. The greatest contribution therefore, which African Leaders can make to this Continent of ours in particular, and to world peace in general, is to demonstrate unequivocally our belief in the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of each State and non-interference in the internal affairs of each country, as inscribed in the Charter of the O.A.U. and U.N. Otherwise we make our Continent vulnerable to all sorts of external intrigues and machinations, thus depriving our people of the much needed unity and solidarity.

I am pleased that Your Excellency is as anxious as I am that an equitable settlement which, will ensure peace, unity and progress of Nigeria, should be found to this unfortunate conflict. Nigeria is grateful for the role Ghana has been playing so as to reach a negotiated settlement of the crisis. Your contribution through O.A.U. Consultative Committee is very much appreciated.

The rebel leader has claimed that he declared the ill-advised secession to ensure the security of the Ibos. You are aware that the Federal Military Government has offered all the guarantees that are humanly possible for the security of the Ibos at both the Addis Ababa and Monrovia Meetings of the Consultative Committee and we went further to indicate its readiness to consider other guarantees which



Brigadier Afrifa and General Gowon share a joke during a State function in Lagos.

the rebels might wish to propose, but they put forward none. In the circumstances, there is no doubt now that Mr Ojukwu is bent on demanding sovereignty at any cost. With this demand uppermost in his mind, he has defied the O.A.U. resolutions in Kinshasa and Algiers, and the Consultative Committee's declaration in Monrovia.

Ojukwu's intransigence notwithstanding, the Federal Military Government will continue to do all in its power to seek a negotiated settlement through the O.A.U. The Government and people of Nigeria are determined to overcome all obstacles to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of our country. I am convinced that the 12-State Federal structure which we now have, offers far better prospects to all the ethnic groups in the country, including the Ibos, for the future harmony and happiness in this country than anything else the rebels and their collaborators are trying to impose on us.

I need hardly stress, Your Excellency, that African countries in their present economic stage need essentially long period of stability and peace to face the gigantic work of economic and national development. We should therefore strive relentlessly to deal very ruthlessly and quickly with all the threats to peace and stability in our countries and the Continent.

Relation between our two countries and peoples dates long way back in history, and it is our desire that the cordial and brotherly relations between our two countries should continue to be strengthened. We share a community of interests and I look forward to discussing with Your Excellency a number of these issues which are of interest to our two Nations. Ghana and Nigeria must have greater understanding and co-operation, and work closely together both in our bilateral and Pan-African interest. Let there be no rivalry but brotherhood and understanding at all levels and at all times in the interest of greater Africa of today and of tomorrow.

Once again, I welcome Your Excellency to Nigeria and wish you every success and God's guidance in the task ahead of you.

Thank you.

TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP

(BRIGADIER AFRIFA'S REPLY TO GEN. GOWON'S
WELCOME ADDRESS)

My Gallant General, Distinguished Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like first of all to thank you, my gallant Major-General Yakubu Gowon, the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the warm reception you have accorded me and members of my party this morning. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to you for the very kind words of welcome that you have addressed to me and my delegation and for the warm tribute which you have paid to Ghana and the National Liberation Council.

My gallant General, I bring you, the Government and people of Nigeria, warm and fraternal greetings from the Government and people of Ghana and from the thousands of Nigerians living in all parts of our country as our brothers and sisters.

General Gowon and Brigadier Afrifa exchange gifts on the eve of Brigadier Afrifa's departure for home.





Your Excellency, I am particularly happy to be able, at long last, to pay my first official visit to Nigeria since my election as Chairman of the National Liberation Council of Ghana. We need hardly remind ourselves that the traditional friendship between our two countries has been founded on years of close commercial and cultural ties. It is a country with which we in Ghana share a common colonial past and common aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity for our people. Happily, these links have survived the unfortunate setback which marred the relations between our two countries a few years ago. The National Liberation Council of Ghana notes with pride that, within the three years that it has been in office, our two countries have significantly moved towards closer association and better understanding of our common problems. Our presence here today is therefore a home-coming event for us, and I assure Your Excellency that although we have only been in Lagos for a few minutes, we already feel at home. My gallant General, as you and the people of Nigeria are aware Ghana has always shown appreciation and understanding of the problems of this country and we shall ceaselessly continue to assist in restoring peace. Nigeria is a great African country inhabited by a great people with whom we share a common destiny.

Once again, Your Excellency, I would like on behalf of myself and members of my party to thank you most sincerely for this moving ceremony of welcome with which we have been honoured this morning.

I am happy to be in Nigeria and we are very much looking forward to a happy and pleasant stay in this historic city. Thank you.

Above: Governor Johnson of Lagos State (left), Brigadier Afrifa and General Gowon (right), admire an album of Brigadier Afrifa's visit to Nigeria. The album was presented to Brigadier Afrifa by the Federal Ministry of Information.



Left: Governor Johnson introduces Lagos White-Cap Chiefs to Brigadier Afrifa at a well attended reception for the Ghanaian Head of State in Lagos.

“I have always held the Press in Nigeria in high esteem”

(Brigadier Afrifa addresses the Press before his departure
at the end of his two-day State visit to Lagos)

Gentlemen of the Press, I would like, first of all, to say how happy I am, for the opportunity that I have been afforded this morning to meet, for the first time, the Press of this country. I have always held the Press of Nigeria in high esteem for being so vigorous and enterprising in this rather tough but exciting profession. I wish you every success.

Within the few hours that we have been here in this great country, my party and I have been tremendously touched by the warmth of the welcome and the spontaneous demonstration of friendship and brotherliness by the people of Nigeria towards my party and myself. In this regard, permit me, my gallant brother, Major-General Yakubu Gowon, to express my heartfelt thanks to you on behalf of my party and myself for the very overwhelming hospitality which you and the people of Nigeria have showered upon us since yesterday. We are returning home with happy memories of this memorable visit. I trust that before long you will also find time to visit us.

Gentlemen, I would like to remind you of the vital role which the Press of our two countries have to play if the happy relations between our two countries are to be nurtured and sustained. Let us remember that the foundation of our friendship will, for its survival, rest on well-founded sympathy and understanding of our common problems by the Press of our two countries.



A break during their talks—Gen. Gowon (right) and Brigadier Afrifa

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Brigadier Afrifa being introduced to Federal Commissioner for Trade and Industries, Shettima Ali Monguno and other distinguished persons at a State reception in Lagos.



General Gowon (left) and Brigadier Afrifa leave Ikeja Airport for State House, Lagos.



Brigadier Afrifa meets Lagos White Cap Chiefs at a State party in the Federal Capital.



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General Gowon flanked by his Ghanaian hosts during his visit. Extreme right is Brigadier Afrifa.



General Gowon (left) and Brigadier Afrifa drive from Accra Airport to Christianbourg Castle.

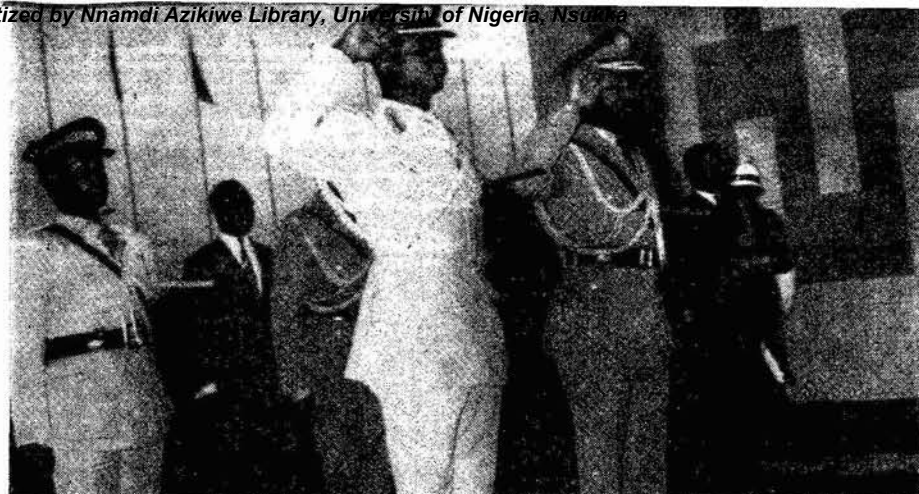
Brigadier Afrifa (left) accompanied by his distinguished host General Gowon visits wounded soldiers in Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

Crowds welcome General Gowon to Accra



General Gowon meets Nigerians living in Ghana





Brigadier Afrifa (left) and General Gowon take the salute at the ceremonial parade in honour of the Nigerian Head of State.

Brigadier Afrifa greets Rear-Admiral Akinwale Wey, Head of the Nigerian Navy.



I will like in this brief statement, to take the opportunity to explain one particular policy of the National Liberation Council which seems to have created some misunderstanding and unease in this country. I refer, of course, to the Ghanaian Enterprises Decree which the National Liberation Council enacted in December last year. The primary objective of this Decree is to give as much encouragement as possible to Ghanaian businessmen and, as it happened in the process, a number of non-Ghanaians resident in Ghana have been affected. This is a bold decision but we should not be carried away by emotion in considering the implications. Every sovereign State has the right, when the circumstances so demand, to ensure that its economic interests are safeguarded. Naturally, the measures we have taken are bound to affect some foreigners. Situations such as this, Gentlemen, are not unknown. I should like to make it clear that, in conceiving this Decree, the National Liberation Council had no particular country—African or non-African—in view.

It is therefore rather sad that our action, genuinely aimed at protecting our own interest, should be misinterpreted as a move directed against a particular African country. Nothing can be further from our intentions. We ourselves, as a country, were badly hit, recently, by a similar decision taken by a sister African State to streamline her security. Painful as it was, we accepted that country's measure in good faith and we have not allowed it to mar our happy relations. I will therefore like to appeal to the people of Nigeria, particularly, the Nigerian Press to appreciate our position in this matter and to show some sympathy and understanding in this particular action of the Ghana Government. What is important is the spirit in which a Decree of this nature is implemented. On our part, we will do everything possible to ensure that the interests of non-Ghanaian Africans are not unduly prejudiced so that they do not suffer unnecessary hardship.

Gentlemen, I am sure that you have been following with interest the progress we have made so far in our endeavour to return the country to a democratically elected Government and, barely a month from now, elections will be held for this purpose. Already, with the lifting of the ban on



Brigadier Afrifa at the Big Reception in Lagos

political activities lively political campaigning is in progress. It is our hope that the elections will be conducted smoothly and peacefully when the time comes.

As I stated at the Airport yesterday, I am glad that I have been able, at last, to visit Nigeria and to be afforded the opportunity of meeting members of the Government.

As well as helping to promote the cordial links between our two countries and peoples, this visit has special significance for me, having as I do, so many things in common with my gallant brother, Major-General Yakubu Gowon, Head of the Federal Military Government. I have in mind,

our age, profession and our common task of guiding the destinies of our respective countries. I have had the privilege of holding useful discussions with my gallant colleague on matters of mutual interest to our two countries and exchanged views on various vital international issues. We have also examined various ways of strengthening further the links between our two countries.

Our discussions took place in a remarkably friendly and frank atmosphere. It is my hope that before long, we will have the opportunity of reciprocating the wonderful hospitality which has been showered on us. Thank you.



GENERAL GOWON VISITS GHANA AMIDST GREAT WELCOME



General Gowon arrives in Accra, Ghana

General Gowon receives a bouquet of flowers

THE Head of State, His Excellency, General Yakubu Gowon, was welcomed on arrival at Accra Airport—exactly thirteen days after the visit to Lagos of the Ghanaian Head of State, Brigadier A. A. Afrifa—by thousands of cheering Ghanaians and the Nigerian community in Ghana. After inspecting a guard of honour mounted by a detachment of the Ghana Army, General Gowon was introduced to members of the Liberation Council, top military and government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

In a welcome address at the airport, Brigadier Afrifa told General Gowon that "we do not regard your presence in Accra as an official visit such as it has been fashionably described, but rather as brothers visiting brothers." Ghana and Nigeria, he remarked, have for years existed as one country. He pointed out that the bonds that unite both countries are founded upon years of economic and cultural association, adding that they had always shared common aspirations, ideals and destiny.

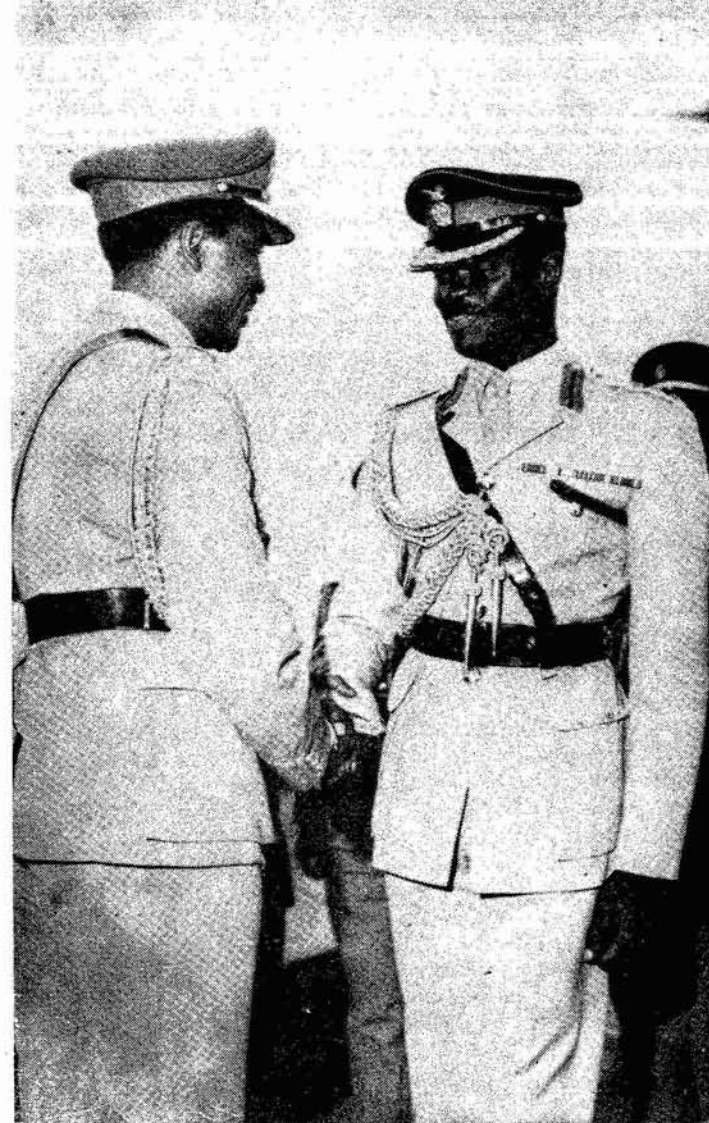
He declared: "If occasional unhappy situations such as were experienced before the 24th February, 1966 tend to mar our relations, we have always taken them as a family affair and have not allowed them to upset seriously our traditional friendship.

Continuing, Brigadier Afrifa remarked that General Gowon's visit to Ghana within thirteen days of his own visit to Nigeria is a conclusive evidence of the value the two leaders place on the friendship between their two countries.

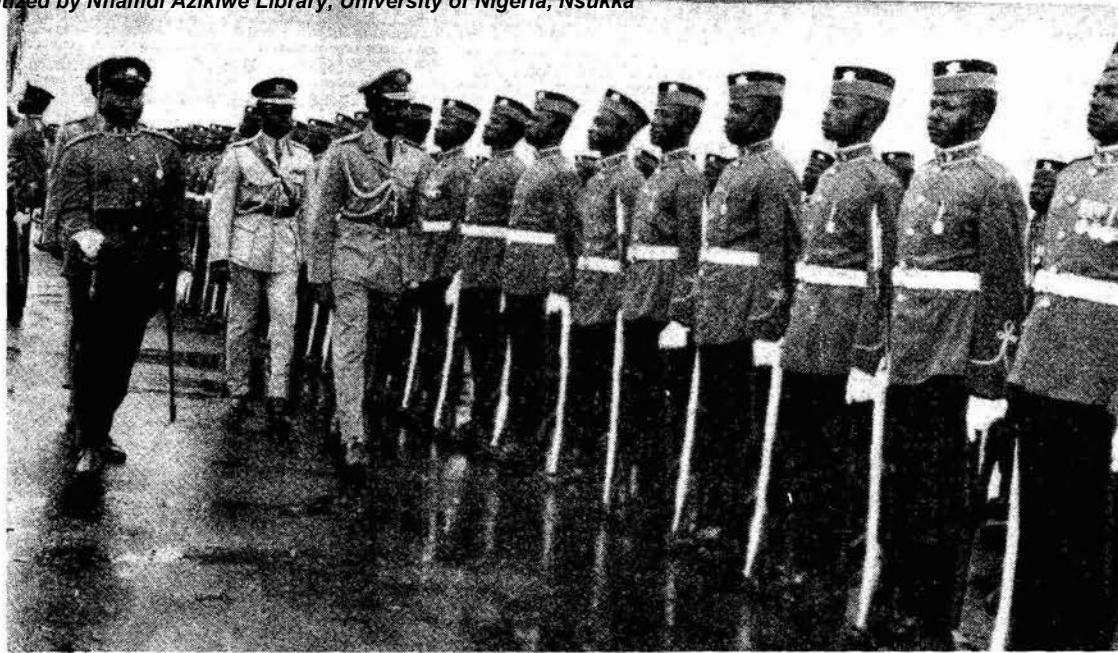
In conclusion, he said Ghanaians were particularly proud to welcome General Gowon, not only in his capacity as Nigeria's Head of State but also as a member of the Ghana Military Academy in Teshie where he spent some time at the initial stages of his illustrious military career.

Replying the Head of State remarked that Ghana and Nigeria have been partners in progress.

Recalling Brigadier Afrifa's earlier visit to Nigeria, General Gowon said it was a manifestation, not only of his sincere desire for the unity of Nigeria but also an expression of the genuine wish of the Ghanaian people for continued partnership between Nigeria and Ghana.



Brigadier Afrifa (right) welcomes General Gowon to Accra

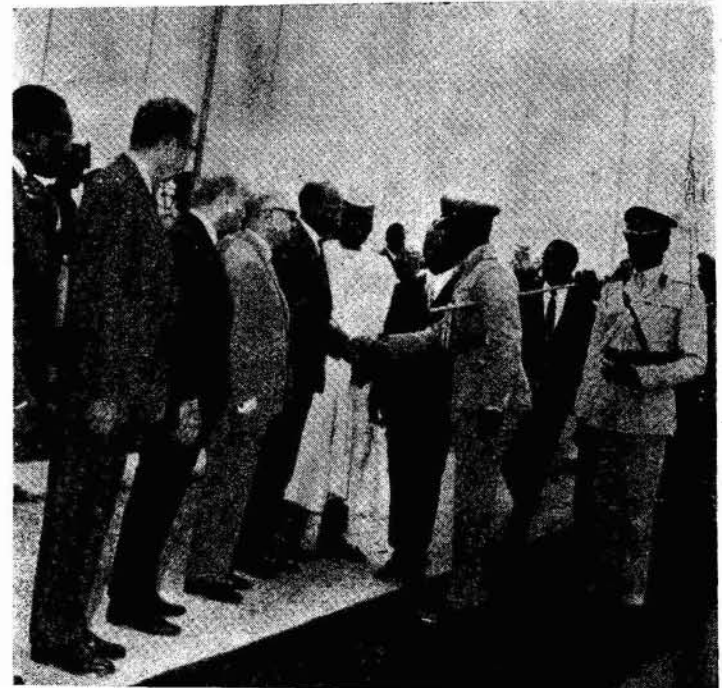


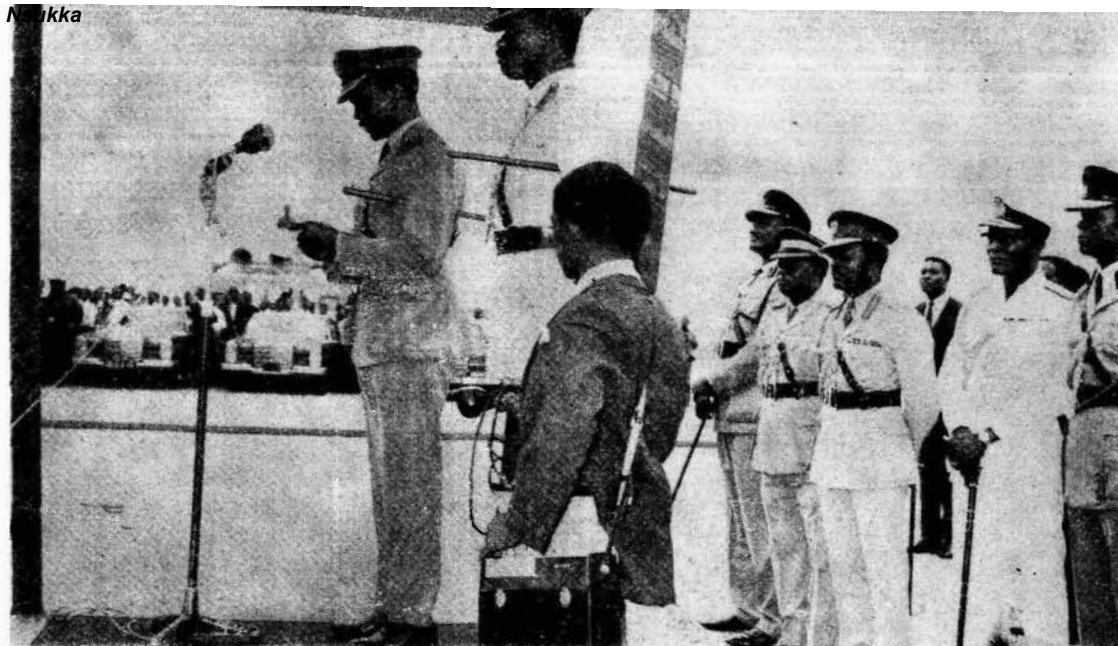
General Gowon inspects a guard of honour on arrival in Accra

On the current civil war in Nigeria, General Gowon expressed the determination of his government to continue, with courage, the search for peace through the O.A.U. He added that the Federal Military Government is prepared, in spite of the divisive propaganda of a few misguided Nigerians and their foreign collaborators, to offer guarantees of security and equality of opportunity to all Nigerians regardless of their ethnic origin. He declared: "Nigeria needs all her citizens to be able to face the task of reconciliation, rehabilitation and national reconstruction."

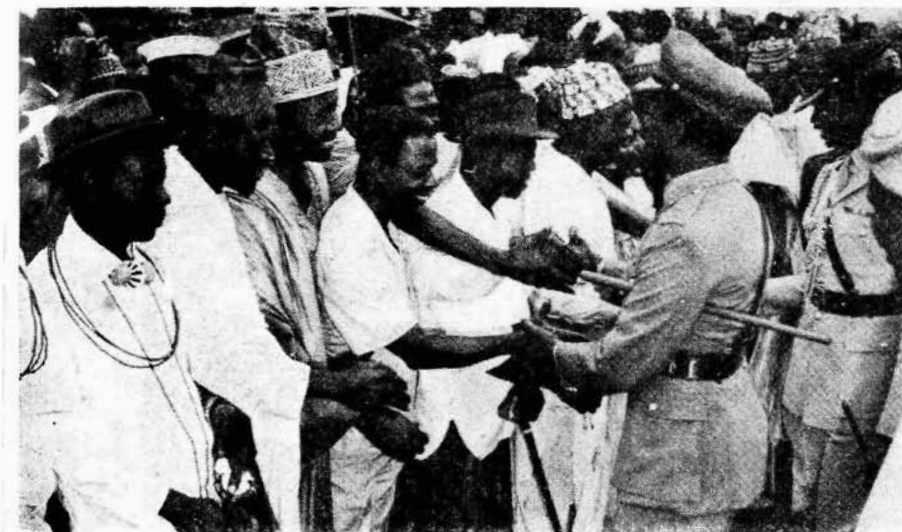
In conclusion, General Gowon renewed his call for further strengthening of the economic and cultural links between the two countries. He added: "Let us rededicate ourselves anew to the spirit of Addis Ababa, the spirit of unity and co-operation in our long-divided continent."

General Gowon meets members of the Diplomatic Corps, high Government officials and other dignitaries on arrival at Accra Airport.





General Gowon replies to Brigadier Afrifa's welcome address



General Gowon meets Nigerians resident in Ghana

Later, both leaders drove in an open car at the head of a long motorcade to the historic Christianbourg Castle where they held discussions.

General Gowon and entourage later drove to the residence of the Nigeria High Commission in Ghana where members of the Nigerian Community had converged to welcome their Head of State. In his characteristic simplicity, General Gowon stopped on several occasions to chat and shake hands with the people who later posed for a group photograph with him.

In their welcome address, the Nigerian Community assured General Gowon that "the over one million Nigerians who are in Ghana are solidly behind you". They expressed confidence in his leadership and pledged their support for, and allegiance to, the Federal Military Government.

They noted that his patience and understanding coupled with the manner with which the Federal Military Govern-



General Gowon (left) and his host, Brigadier Afrifa, at Accra enjoying a private chat

ment is conducting the current war has won for Nigeria the admiration and goodwill of the civilized nations of the world.

Replying, General Gowon acquainted the Nigerians with the war situation and added that even though Nigeria is fighting to preserve her territorial integrity, life is virtually normal in all the states of the Federation.

He then gave the assurance that his government is solemnly determined to liberate the less than 2,000 square miles still under the temporary occupation of the rebels.

On Nigeria-Ghana relations, he pointed out that the ties between the two countries have existed a long time. He declared: "We cherish and value these ties with Ghana; we want these ties to flourish and grow from strength to strength."

In conclusion, he exhorted them to obey the laws and leaders of Ghana and to ensure that they are good Ambassadors of Nigeria during their stay in the country.

Before returning to Nigeria, General Gowon paid a visit to his alma mater, the Military Academy in Teshie where he addressed some of the officers-in-training and recalled happy memories of his student days in the academy.



General Gowon acknowledges cheers from the crowds at Accra Airport.

Ghanaians turned out in their thousands to welcome General Gowon.





General Gowon and his team at talks in Accra with Brigadier Afrifa and his officials

BROTHER TO BROTHER

(Text of Brigadier Afrifa's Welcome Address to General Gowon)

MY Gallant Colleague, Major-General Yakubu Gowon, my Colleagues of the N.L.C., Your Excellencies, Niime, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana and myself, to extend to you and members of your party, a hearty welcome to Ghana. Let me reassure you, my gallant General and our brothers from Nigeria, that we do not regard your presence in Accra this morning as an official visit such as it has been fashionably described, but rather as brothers visiting brothers. Ghana and Nigeria have for years existed as one country. The bonds that unite us are founded upon years of economic and cultural association.

Springing as we do from a common colonial and, to some extent, historical—beginning, we have always shared—common aspirations, ideals and destiny. If occasional unhappy situations such as were experienced before the 24th of February, 1966, tend to mar our relations, we have always taken them as a family affair and have not allowed them to upset seriously our traditional friendship. It is in this spirit that Ghana and Nigeria rapidly mended their fences, almost spontaneously, on the coming into office of the NLC and since then, we have moved shoulder to shoulder as brothers towards the forging of genuine and lasting friendship.

My gallant colleague, coming to Ghana within thirteen days of my visit to Nigeria, we need no better evidence of the value we place on the friendship between our two countries. We are particularly proud to welcome you, not only in your official capacity as the Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria but also as a member of our Military Academy where you spent sometime at the initial stages of your great and illustrious military career.

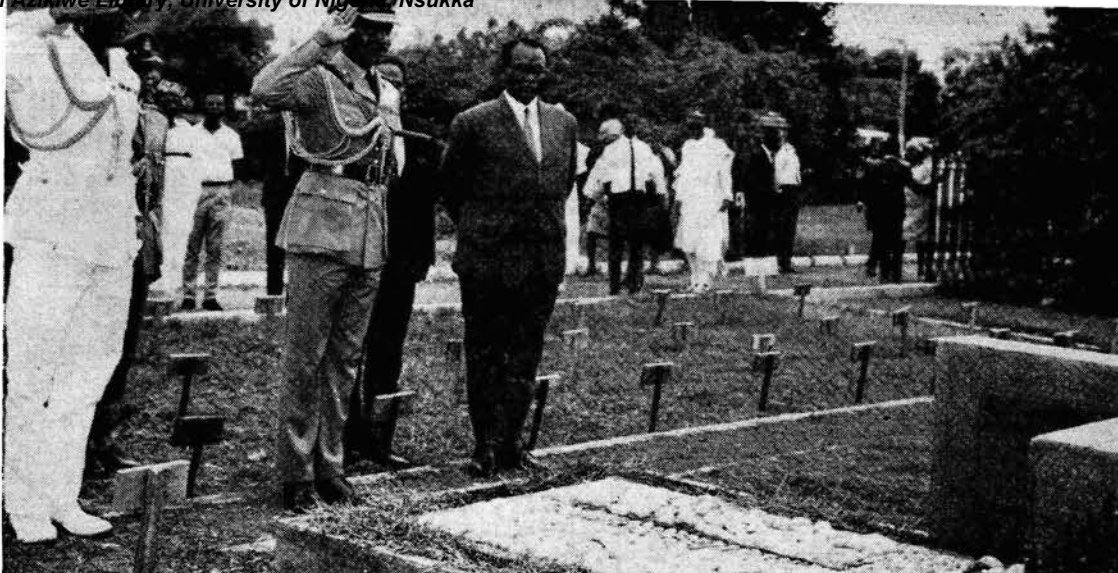


General Gowon signs the Visitors' Book before leaving for home

You can be sure that all your contemporaries and friends in the Ghana Armed Forces are very much looking forward to meeting you and renewing contact. It is a great pity that time and circumstances do not permit you to stay on longer but I trust that you will enjoy your brief stay and return home with pleasant memories of Ghana.

Once more, my gallant General, on behalf of my colleagues of the National Liberation Council, the Government and people of Ghana, I welcome you and your party most heartily to Ghana.

Thank you.



General Gowon (centre) salutes the departed at the War Memorial in Accra.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

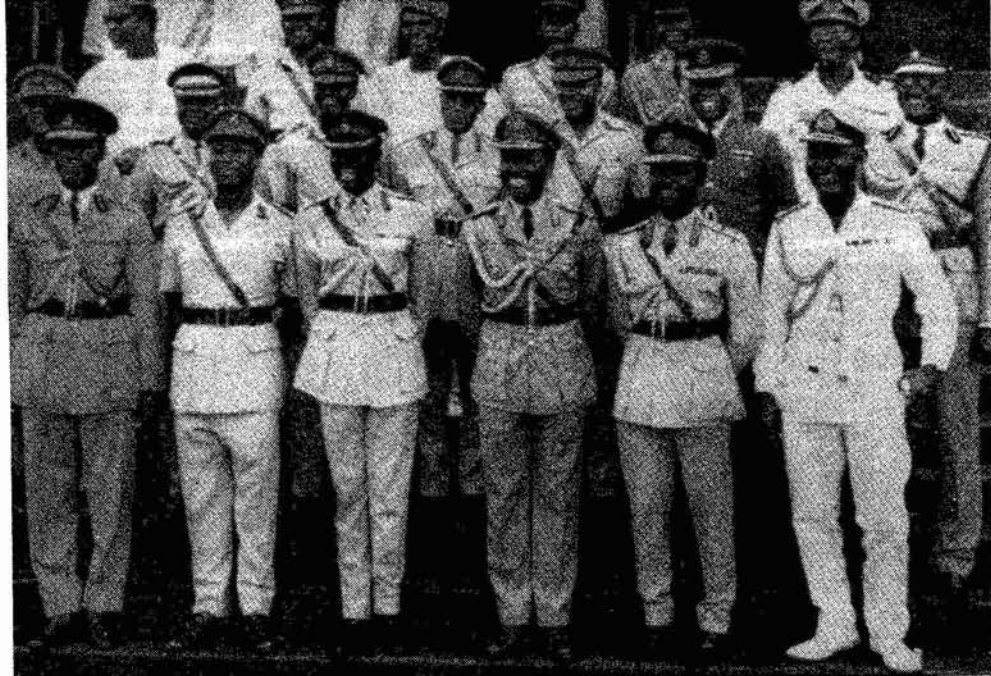
(Text of General Gowon's reply to the Address of Welcome by Brigadier Afrifa)

Your Excellency,
Members of the National Liberation Council,
Honourable Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is always a great pleasure for me to visit this beautiful city of Accra, the Capital of a great and dynamic country which has played host to my colleagues and me several times within the past three years. Since my last visit, I notice that the beauty of the city has been further enhanced by a new landmark, the Kotoka International Airport, which is remarkable not only in its architectural design, but also in the heroism, the patriotism and the selflessness which it sym-

bolizes. This new development is indicative of the determination of the Ghanaian people to forge ahead in spite of odds. We in Nigeria are determined to do the same.

Your Excellency, and my distinguished Brigadier, your moving words of welcome fill me with emotion. Ghana and Nigeria have been partners in progress for several decades. A few weeks ago Your Excellency paid a brief but historic official visit to Nigeria. It was a manifestation not only of your sincere desire for the unity of Nigeria but also an expression of the genuine wish of the Ghanaian people for continued partnership in progress between our two countries. Today, my distinguished Brigadier, it is my privilege to pay you a return visit in the same spirit of brotherhood and co-operation.



General Gowon addresses trainee-officers at Ghana's Military Academy.



General Gowon (3rd from right) and Brigadier Afrifa (3rd from left) pose with Ghanaian military officials. Rear-Admiral J. E. A. Wey, Head of the Nigerian Navy is at extreme right, front row.



The Nigerian Head of State General Gowon is flanked at all sides by enthusiastic Nigerians resident in Ghana on the occasion of his brief visit to Accra.

Your Excellency, we in Nigeria are deeply impressed by your tireless efforts in trying to ensure that Ghana has a democratically elected civilian Government. I can assure you that my Government and the people of Nigeria watch these developments with great interest. As I told Your Excellency, during your visit to Lagos recently, the Federal Military Government is determined to restore civilian rule to Nigeria as soon as rebellion is ended and peace restored to the country. It is our sincere hope that civilian administration in Ghana will continue the good work of the National Liberation Council in building a happy, prosperous and united country. It is also our expectation that under a civilian Government, co-operation with Nigeria will continue to our mutual advantage.

As you are fully aware, we in Nigeria are passing through the greatest national crisis in our history. The Federal Military Government is determined to continue, with courage, the search for peace through the Organization of African Unity. My Government is prepared in spite of the divisive propaganda of a few misguided Nigerians and their foreign collaborators, to offer guarantees of secur-

ity and equality of opportunity to all Nigerians regardless of their ethnic origin. Nigeria needs all her citizens to be able to face the task of reconciliation, rehabilitation and national reconstruction. It is our fervent hope that our friends in and outside Africa will help us appeal to the rebels to give up secession and work within the framework of a United Nigeria.

Once more, Your Excellency, let me thank you very sincerely for the warm and brotherly way in which you have received me and members of my delegation. As you yourself very rightly mentioned in Lagos during your visit, Ghana and Nigeria have a traditional relationship based on many years of political, cultural and economic co-operation. Today, I renew my call for a further strengthening of the economic and cultural links between our two countries. Let us rededicate ourselves anew to the spirit of Addis Ababa, the spirit of unity and co-operation in our long-divided and exploited continent. Let us revive the traditional African spirit of togetherness so that our people may face the future as partners in progress and prosperity.

Thank you.



The Nigerian Head of State, His Excellency General Yakubu Gowon bids Ghana "Good-bye"