armistice force

Addis Ababa, Aug. 7.—The Lagos Government today reiterated its view that no solution to the Nigerian civil war was possible without Biafran renunciation of secession and it proposed the establishment of an international force to supervise any armistice agreement.

The proposal was made at the second session of the peace talks in Addis Ababa. The federal Nigerian delegation suggested that Ethiopia, India and Canada should be approached to make up the supervisory force.

It said that Biafra's renunciation of secession should come in the form of a joint statement, the terms of which would be negotiable between both sides.

The federal delegation added that Nigeria should be reunified according to the external frontiers defined in October, 1963, and the procedure for disarming troops should be examined at a meeting of military officers at a date and place to be discussed.

The delegation also proposed that the areas still held by the Biafrans should be administered by Ibo policemen; that study should be given to installing machinery for calling on the armed forces in case of disorders; and that the East Central state (Ibo-inhabited) should be administered like all other states of the federation by a military governor and an executive committee composed equally of Ibos loyal to Lagos and Ibos from the secessionist ranks.

The proposals, outlined in a 15-page document, provided for the taking back of displaced civil servants by the federal administration and the statutory corporations. On a future constitution, the Lagos negotiators suggested that a meeting should be held at which the Ibos would be represented equitably like other ethnic groups in the federation.

Professor Eni Njoku, the new chief Biafran delegate, said that he was ready to consider any proposals that could ensure security for his people. His statement came after hopes of a successful outcome to the talks had declined with the departure for Abidjan of Colonel Ojukwu, the Biafran leader.

Agence France Presse and Reuters.

Lagos, Aug. 7.—Medical teams giving aid to starving Ibo tribesmen have withdrawn from two sectors of the Nigerian-Biafran front because of the fighting. The Red Cross announced here today. It said one team had retired about 15 miles from a village just north of Awgu to the on the Awgu-Enugu road—proposed by the federal government as a mercy corridor into Biafra. Reuters.

Our Commonwealth Staff writes: Criticisms of relief workers in Nigeria were challenged in London yesterday by Lord Hunt and Sir Colin Thorneley, two members of the mission sent to Nigeria recently by Mr. William. Mr. Timothy Udonke, the general secretary of the Nigerian Red Cross, has said in Lagos that relief workers of the International Red Cross teams and the Save The Children Fund had taken too much time off and did not work on Sundays.

Sir Colin, the director-general of the Save The Children Fund, said: “Lord Hunt and I saw Red Cross workers simply exhausting themselves in their efforts to help the suffering civilian population behind the Nigerian federal Government lines. Indeed we saw every reason for admiration for what they were doing.”

Sir Colin said that he had just received a report from Dr. Noel Mounih, who led the fund's first medical and nursing team in Nigeria, showing that in the first week of work in the Awgu area close to the territory held by Colonel Ojukwu the team fed 5,000 refugees and gave medical treatment to 1,500 more.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Ojukwu: hopes hit by his departure.