A TYPESCRIPT OF A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE THIRD COUP:

DRIFT AND CHAOS ARRESTED

Following the change of the leadership of the Federal Military Government on July 29, 1975 General Murtala Ramat Mohammed became Nigeria's new Head of State. In a televised broadcast in the evening of July 30, 1975 the new Head of State spoke of the wrong doings of the past and, in a businesslike manner, underlined the tasks ahead for the nation. The Head of State also announced the names of the new State Military Governors.

Fellow Nigerians,

Events of the past few years have indicated that despite our great human and material resources, the Government has not been able to fulfil the legitimate expectations of our people. Nigeria has been left to drift. This situation, if not arrested, would inevitably have resulted in chaos and even bloodshed. In the endeavour to build a strong, united and virile nation, Nigerians have shed much blood; the thought of further bloodshed, for whatever reasons must, I am sure, be revolting to our people. The Armed Forces, having examined the situation, came to the conclusion that certain changes were inevitable.

After the civil war, the affairs of State, hitherto a collective responsibility, became characterized by lack of consultation, indecision, indiscipline and even neglect. Indeed, the public at large became disillusioned and disappointed by these developments. This trend was clearly
incompatible with the philosophy and image of a corrective regime. Unknown to the general public, the feeling of disillusion was also evident among members of the Armed Forces whose administration was neglected but who, out of sheer loyalty to the Nation, and in the hope that there would be a change, continued to suffer in silence.

Things got to a stage where the head of the administration became virtually inaccessible even to official advisers; and when advice was tendered, it was often ignored.

Responsible opinion, including advice by eminent Nigerians, traditional rulers, intellectuals, et cetera was similarly discarded. The leadership, either by design or default, had become too insensitive to the true feelings and yearnings of the people. The nation was thus being plunged inexorably into chaos.

It was obvious that matters could not, and should not, be allowed to continue in this manner, and in order to give the nation a new lease of life, and sense of direction, the following decisions were taken:-

(1) The removal of General Yakubu Gowon as Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

(2) The retirement of General Yakubu Gowon from the Armed Forces in his present rank of General with full benefits, in recognition of his past services to the Nation.
(3) General Gowon will be free to return to the country as soon as conditions permit; he will be free to pursue any legitimate undertakings of his choice in any part of the country. His personal safety and freedom and those of his family will be guaranteed.

(4) The following members of the Armed Forces are retired with immediate effect:

- Vice-Admiral J.F.A. Wey. - Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters.
- Major-General Hassan Katsina. - Deputy Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters.
- Major-General David Ejoor. - Chief of Staff (Army).
- Rear-Admiral Nelson Soroh. - Chief of Naval Staff.
- Brigadier E.E. Ikwue. - Chief of Air Staff, and all other officers of the rank of Major-General (or equivalent) and above.
- Alhaji Kam Salem. - Inspector-General of Police.
- Chief T.A. Fagbola. - Deputy Inspector-General of Police.

(5) Also with immediate effect, all the present Military Governors, and the Administrator of the East-Central State, have been relieved of their appointments and retired.

(6) As you are already aware, new appointments have been made as follows:

- Brigadier Olusegun Obasanjo - Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters.
- Brigadier T.Y. Danjuma - Chief of Army Staff.
- Colonel John Yisa-Doko-Chief of Air Staff.
- Commodore Michael A. Adelanwa-Chief of Naval Staff.
- Mr M.D. Yusufu. - Inspector-General of Police.

New Military Governors have also been appointed for the States as follows:
On September 2, 1975, Colonel David Jemibewon replaced Captain Akin Aduwo as Governor in the Western State.

THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

The structure of Government has been re-organized. There will now be three organs of Government, at the Federal level namely:

(i) The Supreme Military Council;
(ii) The National Council of States; and

There will, of course, continue to be Executive Councils at the State level.

The reconstituted Supreme Military Council will comprise the following:

The Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.
Brigadier Olusegun Obasanjo - Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters.
Brigadier T.Y. Danjuma - Chief of Army Staff,
Commodore M.A. Adelanwa - Chief of Naval Staff.
Col. John Yisa-Doko-Chief of Air Staff.
Mr. M.D. Yusufu- Inspector-General of Police.
GOCs - 1st Division, Brig. Julius Alani Akinrinade.
2nd Division, Brig. Martin Adamu.
3rd Division, Brig. Emmanuel Abisoye.
L.G.O., Brigadier John Obada.
Colonel Joseph Garba.
Lt. - Col. Shehu Yar' Adua.
Brigadier James Oluleye.
Brigadier Lliya Bisalla.
Colonel Ibrahim Babangida.
Lt. - Col. Muktar Muhamed.
Colonel Dan Suleman.
Captain Olufemi Olumide (NN).
Captain H. Husaini Abdullahi (NN).
Mr. Adamu Suleman, Commissioner of Police.
Lt. - Commander Godwin Kanu (NN).

All Civil Commissioners in the Federal Executive Council are relieved of their appointments with immediate effect. The composition of the new Council will be announced shortly.

POLITICAL PROGRAMME

We will review the political programme and make an announcement in due course. In the meantime, a panel will be set up to advise on the question of new States. A panel will also be set up to advise on the question of the Federal Capital.

With regard to the 1973 population census, it is now clear that whatever results are announced will not command general acceptance throughout the country. It has therefore been decided to cancel the 1973 population count. Accordingly, for planning purposes, the 1963 census figures shall continue to be used.

A panel will be set up to advise on the future of the Interim Common Services Agency (ICSA) and the Eastern States.
The Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture is postponed in view of the obvious difficulties in providing all the necessary facilities. Consultations will be held with other participating countries with a view to fixing a new date.

Finally, we reaffirm this country's friendship with all countries. Foreign nationals living in Nigeria will be protected. Foreign investments will also be protected. The Government will honour all obligations entered into by the previous Governments of the Federation. We will also give continued active support to the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Organization and the Commonwealth.

Fellow Countrymen, the task ahead of us calls for sacrifice and self-discipline at all levels of our society. This Government will not tolerate indiscipline. This Government will not condone abuse of office.

I appeal to you all to co-operate with the Government in our endeavour to give this nation a new lease of life. This change in Government has been accomplished without shedding any blood and we intend to keep it so.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.