

PA  
CC. GMR

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: 22-Aug-1995 03:09pm EST  
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TO: A. Detheridge SIPC-WA/2/5 ( 7=ALAN@6=DEThERIDGE@8=A@5=SIPC LONDON@4=PROFS@4=WA  
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CC: Emeka ACHEBE GMR ( ACHEBEN )

Subject: Ogoni

Thanks for your note on the meeting with the Ogonis.

I will follow up after giving it some more thought here and discussing with Emeka.

However, one point that I would like to make: I offered Owens Wiwa the possibility that we would be prepared to put in some humanitarian aid (medical?) in exchange for the undertaking by his brother to soften their official stance on two key issue for us: 1. the outrageous claims (which Owens Wiwa said that they had in fact dropped, at least for the moment) against Shell for royalties and reparations, and 2. the claim that we had funded the military in their clean up operations, or to "clear the way" for our return.

You will recall that the response was a frosty one (martyrdom rather than concessions) so I left it at that.

Owens Wiwa has been trying to get me on the phone over last weekend but I did not want to answer him as I am reluctant to get into dialogue when you are talking as well (it could very well be that there is indeed a split as you suggest..remember how he asked me before if we were "negotiating" with Birabi).

I am not sure that we want to be moving towards unilateral aid: we need something in return from the MOSOP elected representatives. I do not know to what extent the ones you talk to can deliver; we need to assess this carefully. Don't forget that the government see MOSOP as terrorists and our dealing with them could be misconstrued. I would want therefore to somehow let the government know that we were trying to get a meeting of minds: to get their agreement would certainly mean that we get something concrete in return. It is delicate and I am not sure how we should move forward, so we need to discuss further. I suggest we do so in London during the CBP trip if it can wait.

The very idea of "minutes" of meeting fills me with concern: you know what happened to records of discussions with AAA, and recently here in Nigeria with Ogoni's records being seized by the Security Forces. I think that we should NOT allow minutes to be taken and we should

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tell them that we feel this way.

I am sending this by confidential fax for the same reasons!

Brian.

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