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To: ASG(PA)

cc: Mr. Chapman  
Mr. de Camaret  
Mr. Mainland  
Float

From: W.M. Newton

Subject: African Interlude

Listening to this morning's "discussion" on recent events in the Congo and Nigeria, I could not but contrast the apparent lack of interest in Africa with the concern shown by governments during the recent Middle East crisis.

Nevertheless,

1. Nigeria, with 55 million people, is the most populous state in Africa, outranking UAR (30 million), South Africa (18 million), Morocco (13 million) and Algeria (10 million);
2. the breakaway of Biafra is at least as important as the secession of Katanga, which excited world interest to a high degree;
3. Nigeria was, until recently, regarded as hopefully a model for responsible, moderate government by Africans.

In drawing attention to this contrast, I have no axe to grind other than to ask others, as I do myself, whether NATO and its members have an effective compass for navigating these complicated situations in Africa which must have a long-run importance for the Alliance and its future.

At a minimum, therefore, I would suggest that Sub-Group 4 of the Harmel Exercise should propose effective means of continuous reconsideration of the interests of the Alliance and its members in Africa and other regions outside the Treaty area: a reconsideration not limited to regional reports by experts.

WMN/RED