

Comment on the following document	EAE 0422 A	
Cabinet Papers. Cabinet Memorandum. Prime Minister's African Tour (January February, 1960.) Note by the Secretary of the Cabinet, 12 April 1960, pp. 30-31. http://filestore.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pdfs/small/cab-129-101-c-66.pdf	Code Sujet	CCV
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The welcome accorded to the Prime Minister and Lady Dorothy Macmillan on their drive from Ikeja Airport into Lagos was a foretaste of the reception that awaited them throughout Nigeria. This was a journey of more than 10 miles, and quite a large number of people had assembled at intervals throughout the route; but in the city of Lagos itself the crowds were dense and demonstrative. The contrast with Ghana was noticeable. There, the spirit was one of friendly interest. In Lagos there was more warmth and enthusiasm, and more evidence of a particular attachment to the United Kingdom. This seemed to be an essentially British occasion.

The same spirit informed the official discussions which the Prime Minister held with Nigerian Ministers, both in Lagos and in the three Regional capitals. No opportunity was lost to express the gratitude of the Nigerian people for the help which they had received from the United Kingdom in the past. And the hope was often expressed that this association, though changed in form, would in substance continue in the future. Nigerians look forward with satisfaction to their coming independence and are anxious to be admitted to full membership of the Commonwealth. But their Ministers, at any rate, would evidently like to feel that within that circle they will still retain some special association with the United Kingdom.

This may be partly due to the realisation that, although they are about to achieve their political independence, it will be a long time before they are able to meet all their requirements from their own resources. Like all newly-independent countries, they are preoccupied with the need for economic development and conscious that it cannot be satisfied without substantial investment from overseas. They view with misgiving the approaching end of grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and the other forms of financial assistance extended to them in Colonial days; and they are anxious that this measure of assistance should be continued, even though it may flow in future through different channels. Both in Lagos and in the Regional capitals the Prime Minister was repeatedly told that Nigeria would greatly prefer that investment from overseas should continue to be drawn from the United Kingdom than from any other source.

Nigerian Ministers also admitted that they will need, not only money, but men—both administrators and technicians of various kinds. They are conscious that they will have to continue to rely on outside assistance for some time to come, until they have trained more of

their own people to undertake these duties. Here too they are grateful for the help they have had from the United Kingdom in the past: and in principle there is no reluctance to contemplate the continuance of expatriate officers in Nigerian service after independence.

35 Defence was another matter on which Nigerian Ministers looked for continuing help from the United Kingdom. They are concerned about the defence of their frontiers. They fear that, with the disintegration of the French Colonial Empire in Africa, maladministration and unrest beyond their borders may reach a point at which their territorial integrity is threatened. They are especially concerned at the situation which may develop in the French Cameroons. They recognise that, if this position deteriorates, they may be unable without help to deal with
40 its consequences within their own territory; and they are anxious to be assured that in this event they could count on military assistance from the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister was greatly impressed by the wise and authoritative influence exercised in all these matters by the Governor-General, Sir James Robertson. He was glad to learn that the Nigerian Government are likely, after independence, to ask that Sir James
45 should continue in this office for a time. But he was impressed by the importance—and the difficulty—of ensuring that after independence the United Kingdom representatives throughout Nigeria will be men who have the character and the experience to enable them to give the help and guidance required by a country which, though it has achieved its political independence, will not for some time be able to stand firmly on its own feet. Politically,
50 Nigeria's immediate problem is to make a success of the federal system and to weld the different races of the three Regions into a single national unity. The Prime Minister had an opportunity of judging the practical difficulties of this problem in the brief visits which he paid to each of the three Regions. The differences—of race, temperament, climate and way of life—were readily apparent, and the spirit of rivalry between the Regions was also evident.
55 But the federal system has survived its initial period of trial; and its machinery, although it creaks in places, is working reasonably well.

