

OYO STATE COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

CULTURAL CENTRE ROAD, MOKOLA,
IBADAN NIGERIA

ARCHIVES

	FILE NO.	VOLUME NO.
	SUBJECT	HONOURS : POLICY
	CLASS MARK	CAC 1.8 . 17
	PIECE/SERIAL NO.	

CAC 0018

**OFFICE OF THE
MILITARY GOVERNOR**

FILE No.

HS. 11/T

FILE TITLE

SECRET

INDEX HEADINGS

DATE	To	DATE	To	DATE	To	DATE	To
CAC 1.8.17							
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HS. 11/7							

FILE NO.

HS. 11/T

WGP 606

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FILE TITLE

HONOURS: POLICY

No.

CONNECTED PAPERS

SUBJECT

No.

HS 11/s.1	Honours: Proposals from Heads of Dep.
✓ 11/s.2	✓ Correspondence with Recipients
✓ 11/s.3	✓ Miscellaneous Corresp.
✓ 11/s.4	✓ Recommendation to the Premier
✓ 11/s.5	✓ Quote
✓ 11/s.6	✓ Recommendation to the Governor
SP/s.90	✓ Policy
SP/s.91	Presentation of Insignia & Order
SP/s.92	British Honours
SP/s.93	Nigerian ✓
SP/s.94	Honours: Fire Service Medals

Secret

PRECEDENTS RECORDS NOTED

DATE

IN RESPECT OF



PREMIER'S OFFICE
IBADAN · WESTERN NIGERIA

Your Ref. No.

*All communications should be addressed
to the Secretary to the Premier and
Executive Council quoting*

Our Ref. No. 5/342

Date 11th March, 1963.

HS. 11

The Head of the Service,
Office of the Head of the
Service,
Ibadan,
W. Nigeria.

Independence Medals

I am directed to forward herewith papers
received from the Eastern Nigeria Government on
the subject of the award of the Independence Medals
to certain members of the Public Services of the
Federation.

S. O. Asabia
(S. O. Asabia)
for Secretary to the Premier
and Executive Council.

5 ✓

270
2

0567/2.

24 March 62.

The Secretary to the Prime Minister,
Cabinet Office,
Lagos.

Independence Medal

I am directed to say that it has almost appeared to me anomalous that the Independence Medal which was awarded to all ranks of the Police and Army serving in Nigeria on 1st October, 1960, regardless of their length of service in Nigeria, was not also awarded to Administrative Officers and others entitled to wear official uniform. This omission may, of course, have been due to the fact that the Federal Government had decided to abolish the wearing of uniform by members of the Administration, but I nevertheless feel that the Medal should have been awarded to members of the Administration in this and the Northern Regions where uniform is still worn. Even at this late date I consider that the Medal should be awarded to all Administrative Officers in this Region who were serving from the 1st of October, 1960, and I shall be grateful if action could be taken so as to award it.

2. I am sending copies of this letter to the Secretary to the Premier, Kaduna, and to the Secretary to the Executive Council, Ibadan.

I. R. Duncan

(I. R. DUNCAN)
for Chief Secretary to the Premier.

No. 0567/2A.

Enugu: 24 March, 1962.

Copies to:-

The Secretary to the Premier,
Northern Region,
Kaduna.

✓ The Secretary to the Executive Council,
Western Region,
Ibadan.



For information.

I. R. Duncan

(I. R. DUNCAN)
for Chief Secretary to the Premier.

See p. 34/

Encl-
AS
29/3/62

GOVERNMENT OF EASTERN NIGERIA

Telegrams: PERMPREM

Telephone:

Your ref.....

Our ref.....0567/23.....

(All replies to be addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Premier).



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

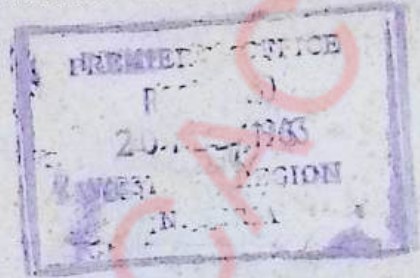
POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

ENUGU

16th February 1963

The Secretary to the Premier,
Western Nigeria,
Ibadan.

The Secretary to the Premier,
Northern Nigeria,
Kaduna.



Independence Medals

p 27.0
I am directed to refer to my endorsement No.0567/2A of 24th March, 1962 and to inform you that I have received the following reply from the office of the Prime Minister:-

"It was never the intention of the Federal Government to extend the award of Independence Medals to any other officers besides those in the Security Forces - the Army, Navy and the Police."

2. It is generally believed in this Region that this response is inadequate and I would be grateful to receive your own opinion on this subject. It is our view that Administrative Officers, with their considerable responsibility in such matters, are as much members of the "Security Forces", in the way that the above quoted letter describes certain groups of officers, as any member of the Army, the Navy and the Police.

(R. W. HARDING),

FOR: AG. CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE PREMIER.

loul
28/2

U.S

Phone referred cor-t. p. 27, pt.

mm

1/3/63

343-4

SPAC

Pl see letter at page 342 in which the Chief Secretary to the Premier, East, has again taken up the question of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ awarding independence medals to Administrative Officers, in common with members of the Police Force & the Army - pl see page 270 for previous correspondence.

2. I myself consider that the suggestion that the Admin class forms part of the security forces, is rather old-fashioned; 10 years ago, we would have disputed the statement. And again, Admin Officers do not now wear uniforms in the work although a Ctee investigated this matter recently. In all events, I do not think that it would be a wise step at this stage to revive the old body of preferential treatment for Admin Officers.

3. 2. As this is a service matter, you might wish to send your colleagues in the Staff Ctee?

1/15
2/3/63.

1/15

X / Decoration is a matter for Head of Service.
Please detach papers relating to the above
to his office for a.

1/15
8/3.

5
A.S.

from p. 1 sub'd, plse.

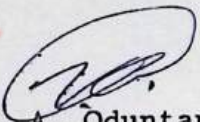
D 12/3/63

H.S.,

Please see the U.S's (Premier's Office) minute at p.4 with which I agree.

2. However, with respect to X at p.4, I feel the papers are being sent to you not because decoration is entirely a matter for the Head of the Service, but because the issues raised at pp.2-3 is a service matter for which you are responsible (see para.1 (4) on p.4 of HS.18/S.1 attached), and also because the matter concerns Administrative Officers of which you are the head.

3. My understanding of the true position with regard to Honours and Awards is that the Head of the Service is responsible for the processing of recommendations for Honours and awards, and the tendering of advice to the Premier on the recommendations after consultations with S.P.E.C. and the Chairman of the P.S.C. In this connection, pl. see para.3 of p.10 in HS.18/S.1 attached. In my opinion, decorations and awards other than the specific functions referred to above, still remain the responsibility of the Premier's Office. It is probably not without significance that this Region is represented on the National Committee on Nigerian Honours by S.P.E.C. Perhaps you will wish to clear once and for all, the line of responsibility in this matter.


(V. A. Oduntan)
A.S. to H.S.
13/3/63.

HS.11/T.6

22nd March, 1963.

The Chief Secretary to the Premier,
Eastern Nigeria,
Enugu.

Independence Medals

I am directed to acknowledge your letter No.0567/23, of 16th February, 1963, and to inform you that there is no objection in this Region, at the Official level, to the award of Independence Medals to Administrative Officers who were in the Service of this country at the time of Independence celebrations. I am sure, you are aware of the fact that in our Region, the wearing of official uniform is no longer compulsory but there are a few officers still with us who may wish to appear in their uniform on ceremonial occasions.

2. A copy each of this letter is being forwarded to the Secretary to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Office, Lagos and Secretary to the Premier, Northern Region, Kaduna.

(I. O. Dina)
Ag. Head of the Service.

HS.11/6A
March, 1963

Copy to:

The Secretary to the Prime Minister,
Cabinet Office,
Lagos.

6A

- 2 -

The Secretary to the Premier,
Northern Region,
Kaduna.

(I. O. Dina)
Ag. Head of the Service.

muw
D22/3

STATE HOUSE,
LAGOS, NIGERIA.

Ref. 2013/196

30th May, 1963.

The Private Secretary to the
Governor,
Government House,
Ibadan,
Western Nigeria.

I am directed to refer to His Excellency the Governor's letters, Nos. G.580/1/568 of the 13th March, 1963, and G.580/1, of the 18th March, 1963, to His Excellency the Governor-General, and to say that the recommendations for Birthday Honours, 1963 submitted by His Excellency have been approved by Her Majesty the Queen.

The awards will be published on the morning of Saturday, 8th June, 1963, and I should be grateful if you would treat the matter as confidential until that time.

(Sgd.) A. K. DISU,
Secretary to the
Governor-General.

Ref. No. G.580/1/640
Governor's Office,
Ibadan. *4* June, 1963.

Copy to :

The Ag. Head of Service,
The Treasury,
Ibadan.

Hs 11/

RECEIVED
4 JUN 1963
SECRET REGISTRY
THE TREASURY IBADAN

For your information, please.

2. Publication in an extra-ordinary Gazette will be arranged for Saturday, 8th June, 1963.

E. A. Ogunbaye
Private Secretary.

As to Hs

Above is subd ples.

*DNJ
5/6/63.*

SECRET

*P. A.
6/6/63*

P.S.T. & H.S.

As you are aware the Executive Council Memo referred to in your minute addressed to the Hon. Premier at p. 31 has not yet been taken by the Council, but in view of the urgency of the matter referred for consideration, the Hon. Premier has directed me to forward the following comments for incorporation with the Conclusion which you have asked the Executive Council to approve:-

- (1) The Premier observes that the report does not refer to the existing arrangement whereby quotas of the various awards or decorations are allocated to the different Regions in respect of each occasion that an award has to be made. He would like the arrangement for the quota system to continue and, in addition, that the recommendations made by the various Regional Governments within the quota be approved as a matter of formality and not subject to further consideration by any Advisory Committee;
- (2) That provision be made for the number of awards or decorations of high calibre in various categories to be restricted in order to ensure that only people deserving of honour are considered and awarded the honour;
- (3) That some sort of privileges be attached to the awards, such as, order of precedence and status which should be accorded to the recipients on State occasions.

(T.O. E. J. Wunni)
S.P.E.C.
11/7/1963.

Copy

S.31/2/35

17th July, 1963.

The Secretary to the Prime Minister,
Cabinet Office,
Lagos.

Honours and Awards

Further to my letter No. S.31/2/28 of 12th June, 1963 on the above subject, the preliminary views of the Western Nigeria Government on the Report of the Committee on Nigeria Honours and Awards are as follows:-

- (i) Paragraphs (i)-(iii), (v) and (vii) to (xii) of the Summary of Recommendations are wholly acceptable to this Government;
- (ii) That, contrary to paragraph (iv), some sort of privileges be attached to the awards, such as, order of precedence, and status, which should be accorded to the recipients on State occasions;
- (iii) That in addition to the provisions of subsections (i) and (ii) of paragraph (vi) it will be necessary that the title of the award or order, as well as the different categories under it be clearly designated and not left to the discretion of the Advisory Council on the Award of National Honours which is to be set up. In this regard, the suggestions by Mr. Adeniyi-Williams in Annexure (v) to the Report are highly commended;
- (iv) That the existing arrangement whereby quotas of the various awards or decorations are allocated to all the Regions in respect of each occasion that an award has to be made should be continued;
- (v) That recommendations made by each Regional Government, within the prescribed quota, should be approved as a matter of formality and not subject to further consideration by the Advisory Council on the Award of National Honours;
- (vi) That provision be made for the number of awards or decorations of high calibre in various categories to be restricted in order to ensure that only people deserving of honour are considered and awarded the honour.

(I. O. Dina)
Acting Head of the Service.

17/7

P. A.
20/7

REPORT

The Committee on Nigerian Honours and Awards held its first meeting on April 18, 1962, followed by two other meetings. During these meetings, detailed studies were made of the system of awards which obtain in other countries, especially those in the Commonwealth. It was the view of the Committee, that much as it was desirable that Nigeria should learn from the experiences of other countries, it was not considered necessary to copy the systems that obtain in such countries. The general feeling was that Nigeria should evolve her own distinct system of National Awards.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) That any decisions reached on a system of awards of Nigerian Honours should reflect the unanimous views of all the Governments in the Federation, as it was only in that way that unity of purpose in so vital a matter could be assured. This would be without prejudice to any agreed changes that might be made to the system from time to time.
- (ii) That its approach should be based upon the principle that Nigeria was free to institute a set of Nigerian Honours, Decorations and Awards either pari passu with those at present awarded by Her Majesty or to the exclusion of these.
- (iii) That Foreign Honours should not be accepted by any Nigerian without the prior approval of the Federal Government, but that a Nigerian was still free to accept foreign academic awards without such approval.
- (iv) That consideration should be given to the forms of the awards, the purposes for which as well as the occasions on which they should be made.
- (v) That, before the date of the next meeting, the Secretary to the Committee should by means of newspaper advertisement invite members of the public to submit

their views in writing to the Committee through the Secretary.

2. A second meeting of the Committee took place on July 13, 1962, to consider the contributions sent in by members of the public as a result of the advertisements in certain newspapers. Members felt that the fewness of the contributions could be attributed to the fact that the public needed a longer period than the one month thus far allowed to send in their views, and that definite questions in the form of a questionnaire should be framed for their guidance. Letters were also to be addressed to the Heads of the Forces asking for their suggestions in respect of their members.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) That a new advertisement in the form of a questionnaire should be published in the newspapers, and that the closing date should be stated as September 30, 1962.
- (ii) That payments were to be made for the advertisements wherever necessary.
- (iii) To defer the determination in respect of the question as to whether or not there should also be Regional awards, what designs of medals should be, and what names (if any) should be mentioned in the awards, until it was time to submit final recommendations to the Honourable Prime Minister.

A copy of the questionnaire which was later published in the newspapers and announced over the various Broadcasting systems is attached as Annex IV.

3. The Committee held its 3rd meeting on October 26, 1962. The response from the general public as a result of the questionnaire advertised in the newspapers was great, as over a thousand replies were received. There was detailed discussion of the various points of view.

The Committee agreed:

(A) Generally -

- (i) That no payment was to be made in respect of the announcements made by the N.B.C. and the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria in connection with proposed National Honours and Awards, and
- (ii) That the Ministry of Information should be responsible for the settlement of the bills received from the various newspapers in respect of the questionnaire published by them.

(B) As to Principles Underlying Awards -

- (i) That there should be only one set of National Awards, although due note was taken of the suggestion made at the last meeting by the Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria, that the Regions should be free to make their own awards, especially in cases where distinguished visitors paid official visits to such Regions.
- (ii) That awards should take the form of titles and that recipients should be allowed to use letters after their names; but that the initial number of awards should be very limited. All honours should carry appropriate decorations and/or medals.
- (iii) That Foreign Honours might be accepted only with the approval of the Federal Government.

(C) As to Categories of Titles -

- (i) That there should be FOUR distinct groups of honours; and
- (ii) That all the FOUR classes of honour were to be accompanied with appropriately worded scrolls.

(D) As to the Armed Forces' Awards -

That the four categories of civilian awards should also apply to the armed forces, although a separate set of medals could, in addition, be awarded for gallantry and for general meritorious service. The Police should enjoy those extra categories of awards.

(E) As to Types of Awards -

That there should be the following types of honours in a descending order of precedence:-

- (i) A gold medal on a ribbon of national colours.
- (ii) A silver medal inset in a gold rim on a ribbon of national colours.
- (iii) A bronze medal inset in a silver rim on a ribbon of national colours.
- (iv) A bronze medal on a ribbon of national colours.

It was further agreed that each of these honours should be accompanied by an appropriately worded and inscribed scroll, and that each medal should carry the Nigerian Coat of Arms on one side, and an outline map of Nigeria, on the other side.

(F) As to Honours for Foreigners -

- (i) That Heads of States on State visits and also other important individuals should be eligible for awards;
- (ii) That awards to Head of States should take the form of a sash with a gold medal, while others should be awarded silver medal hung on a ribbon. Appropriate scrolls should also accompany both types of honours; and
- (iii) That such visitors might be the guests of either the Federal or a Regional Government, but that the award of any such honours should have been duly approved in advance of the visit.

(G) As to Academic Honours, Etc. -

That the Federal Government's approval should not be required as a condition of the acceptance by Nigerians

of academic or professional titles, honours and awards from foreign countries or from any of the Governments of the Federation.

(H) As to Occasions for Making Awards -

- (i) That this should be the National Day, i.e., October 1 of each year; and
- (ii) That the awards should be made, as at present, by H.E. the Governor-General on the advice of the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

(I) As to a Council on the Award of National Honours -

That a permanent body to be known as the Advisory Council on the Award of National Honours be set up with effect from the inception of a system of award of national honours, to advise the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee now submits the following recommendations:-

- (i) That, instead of the present awards made to Nigerians by Her Majesty the Queen, there should be awards of Nigerian Honours made by the Nigerian Head of State on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
- (ii) That there should be only one set of National Awards, as the Nigerian State is the only fountain of honour.
- (iii) That there should be no distinction between civil and military honours and awards, except that members of the Forces (including the Police) may, in addition to the general set of honours be awarded separate sets of medals for gallantry and for general meritorious service;

(iv) That no special rights, privileges, or benefits be attached to the possession of national honours; and

(v) As to Principles Underlying Awards -

(i) That there should be only one set of National Awards, although due note was taken of the suggestion made at the last meeting by the Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria, that the Regions should be free to make their own awards, especially in cases where distinguished visitors paid official visits to such Regions.

(ii) That awards should take the form of titles and that recipients should be allowed to use letters after their names; but that the initial number of awards should be very limited. All honours should carry appropriate decorations and/or medals.

(iii) That Foreign Honours might be accepted only with the approval of the Federal Government.

(vi) As to Categories of Titles -

(i) That there should be FOUR distinct groups of honours; and

(ii) That all the FOUR classes of honour were to be accompanied with appropriately worded scrolls.

(vii) As to the Armed Forces' Awards -

That the four categories of civilian awards should also apply to the armed forces, although a separate set of medals could, in addition, be awarded for gallantry and for general meritorious service. The Police

should enjoy these extra categories of awards.

(viii) As to Types of Awards -

That there should be the following types of honours in a descending order of precedence:-

- (i) A gold medal on a ribbon of national colours.
- (ii) A silver medal inset in a gold rim on a ribbon of national colours.
- (iii) A bronze medal inset in a silver rim on a ribbon of national colours.
- (iv) A bronze medal on a ribbon of national colours.

It was further agreed that each of these honours should be accompanied by an appropriately worded and inscribed scroll, and that each medal should carry the Nigerian Coat of Arms on one side, and an outline map of Nigeria, on the other side.

(ix) As to Honours for Foreigners -

- (i) That Heads of States on State visits and also other important individuals should be eligible for awards;
- (ii) That awards to Head of States should take the form of a sash with a gold medal, while others should be awarded silver medal hung on a ribbon. Appropriate scrolls should also accompany both types of honours; and
- (iii) That such visitors might be the guests of either the Federal or a Regional Government, but that the award of any such honours should have been duly approved in advance of the visit.

(x) As to Academic Honours, Etc. -

That the Federal Government's approval should not be required as a condition of the

acceptance by Nigerians of academic or professional titles, honours and awards from foreign countries or from any of the Governments of the Federation.

(xi) As to Occasions For Making Awards -

- (i) That this should be the National Day, i.e. October 1 of each year, and
- (ii) That the awards should be made, as at present, by H.E. the Governor-General on the advice of the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

(xii) As to a Council on the Award of National Honour -

That a permanent body to be known as the Advisory Council on the Award of National Honours be set up with effect from the inception of a system of award of national honours, to advise the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

T. O. Elias,
C h a i r m a n

M I N O R I T Y R E P O R T

The Northern Minister of Information, Alhaji Ibrahim Bui, disagrees with the main Report on the following points :-

- (i) That there should be only one set of National Awards.

The Minister feels very strongly that there should be both Federal and Regional Awards.

- (ii) That Foreign Honours might be accepted only with the approval of the Federal Government.

The Minister said it was the view of the Government of Northern Nigeria that members of that Government and other official delegations going abroad should be free to accept honours from the countries visited without the permission of the Federal Government.

COMMITTEE ON NIGERIAN HONOURS AND AWARDS

Terms of Reference:

- (i) To examine and report on the question of Nigerian Honours and Awards;
- (ii) to consider whether or not there should be a distinction between civil and military honours and awards;
- (iii) to consider and report on the conditions of eligibility for such awards and the symbol, insignia, decorations or medals in respect of each type of award and the occasions on which such medals or decorations should be worn;
- (iv) to consider and report if any privileges, rights, or benefits should be attached to national honours; and
- (v) to consider and report on the general question of award of foreign honours and the conditions and procedure for the acceptance of such awards or honours.

MEMBERS:

Dr. the Honourable T. O. Elias, Q.C. (Chairman)
Attorney-General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice.

Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,
Minister of Information,
Kaduna, Northern Nigeria.

Honourable M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of Justice,
Enugu, Eastern Nigeria.

Mr. Adeniyi-Williams,
Commissioner,
Ministry of Works and Transport,
Ibadan, Western Nigeria.

Mr. S. O. Wey,
Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi,
Secretary to the Administrator,
Ibadan, Western Nigeria.

Mr. J. O. Udoji,
Chief Secretary to the Premier,
Enugu, Eastern Nigeria.

Alhaji Alli Akilu, M.B.E.,
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Planning,
Kaduna, Northern Nigeria.

N O T I C E

NIGERIAN HONOURS, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

The National Committee on the award of Nigerian Honours would welcome suggestions from the general public on the following questions :-

- (i) Do you consider that there should be only one set of National Awards, or do you consider that there should also be Regional Awards either for services rendered to the Regions or in recognition of visiting foreign dignitaries?
- (ii) Do you consider that such awards should take the form of :-
 - (a) titles, which qualify recipients to use letters after their names, or
 - (b) decorations, which qualify recipients to wear medals on ceremonial occasions, or
 - (c) both, or
 - (d) neither?
- (iii) Do you consider that Foreign Honours should be accepted by Nigerians, with or without the approval of the Federal Government?

2. Please address all communications to :-

The Secretary,
National Committee on Nigerian Honours,
c/o Cabinet Office,
LAGOS.

3. It will be appreciated if your suggestions are forwarded to the Secretary not later than the 30th of September, 1962.

MINUTES of the MEETING of the Committee on
Nigerian Honours and Awards held in the
Cabinet Office, Lagos, on Wednesday, the 18th of April, 1962.

Present:

Dr. the Hon. T. O. Elias, Q.C., (Chairman)
Attorney-General of the Federation and
Minister of Justice.

Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,
Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi,
Minister of Finance, Western Nigeria

Mr. S. O. Wey,
Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi,
Acting Secretary to the Premier and Executive Council,
Western Nigeria

Alhaji Alli Akilu, M.B.E.,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning,
Northern Nigeria

In attendance:

M. O. Akande
Senior Assistant Secretary,
Cabinet Office, Lagos.

S. A. Uaboi
Assistant Secretary,
Cabinet Office, Lagos.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the deliberations, explained the circumstances that had made it necessary for the Committee to be summoned at such a short notice. This was due to his impending departure from the country to attend an international conference in Europe. The primary purpose of the meeting was to consider in outline the method of approach that the Committee should adopt before a detailed consideration could be undertaken, with a view to making concrete recommendations to the Prime Minister. It was necessary that the Committee should reach agreement early, and in any case before October, to obviate any possibility of delay in submitting concrete proposals. He then invited the members to state their views.

The Secretary to the Prime Minister explained that it had not been possible to forward the materials on the subject matter to members of the Committee earlier because of the delay in obtaining these materials from the various embassies that were contacted. He, however, assured members of the Committee that, should they require any further materials or information, arrangements would be made to obtain such information early with a view to their being forwarded to such members as soon as possible and without any delay.

The Minister of Finance, Western Nigeria, Chief J.A.O. Odebiyi stated that, in view of the structure of the Federation, the question of award of Nigerian Honours had Nigerian wide ramifications. While he did not suggest that any decisions now made by the Government on the matter would be immutable for ever, it was necessary to ensure that succeeding Governments would not upset such decisions. The award of Honours was such a matter in which there must be some degree or mark of continuity and some measure of uniformity. In view of this fact, it might take the Committee some time before it could achieve some results or make concrete suggestions. Such suggestions or recommendations should be a basis for discussions by the Prime Minister of the Federation with Regional Premiers so as to ensure that any decisions that were ultimately reached on the matter represented the unanimous view of the nation.

The Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ibrahim Biu, while expressing general agreement with the views of Chief Odebiyi, emphasized the importance of the task before the Committee, and the need to evolve or make recommendations that were devoid of any traces of political partizanship. Considerations of politics must be eschewed by the Committee in making its recommendations. The Honours must reflect the unity of the nation, and by such could awards be assured a continuity that was so very vital, if such awards were to be accorded the degree of importance to which similar British or other foreign Honours were accorded.

The Chairman explained that while their recommendations would be a framework, and a basis on which a decision might be reached as to the form and type of honours that would be awarded, the Prime Minister's attitude on the matter had been based upon a recognition of the vital need for consultation with the other Governments of the Federation, and this had accounted for the Nigerian wide composition of the Committee.

The Secretary to the Prime Minister stated that the Prime Minister had given considerable thought to the matter, in consultation with the Regional Premiers, and that before the recommendations of the Committee are implemented consultation would be undertaken with the other Governments. It was proposed that expert advice would also be obtained.

The Committee:

- (1) Agreed that any decisions reached on the award of the Nigerian Honours should reflect the unanimous views of all the Governments, and only by that could there be a guarantee that future Governments would not radically review such awards. Although it could not be said that any system of award of Honours would be immutable, they would admit of slight changes or additions, but there was a need to preserve the basic fabric or the underlying concepts which the various Governments had accepted as a basis for the awards of the Honours.

I. IMPLICATIONS OF INSTITUTING NIGERIAN HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Chairman next raised the question as to the implications of instituting a Nigerian Honours and Awards in the context of the present position of the country. The country was at present under a monarchical system, and the Queen as the fountain of honour made all awards. These raised a number of delicate constitutional problems as to whether in view of that fact Nigeria could institute its own Honours Awards, and the question of its attitude to award of foreign Honours. It was suggested that in view of the considerable degree of agreement over the question of a Republican form of Government, it could be assumed that the recommendations of the Committee could be made on the basis that the country would adopt that form of government. It was, however, suggested that, the Committee should approach the task on the basis that if the existing status quo were retained, any recommendations would be additional to the existing ones. In this respect, it would be necessary to look for precedent to justify such Award, or whether in such circumstances, the only additional Awards that could be made in Nigeria were either in the nature of prizes for Literature or academic awards etc. and that no additional Awards could be made for meritorious services.

The view was expressed that if Nigeria was to retain the existing status quo, it would be difficult to institute its own distinct Honours and Awards. That would seem to be the constitutional position, but it would be necessary to ascertain, whether in view of the fact, that the Head of Nigerian State was in the country, Nigeria could institute its own Awards for meritorious services.

It was then suggested that an approach might be made to the British Government for a clarification on this matter. It was, however, explained that it would be difficult, in the present circumstances, to approach the British Government on such a matter, and that as long as existing status quo was retained, the Queen would remain the fountain of Honour. It was at that stage suggested that the Queen might be approached to approve award of Nigerian Honours. The view was expressed that this would derogate from the Nation's sovereignty, and that there was no precedent for such practice. When India, Ghana and Pakistan adopted a Republican form of government, the Queen ceased to be a fountain of Honour and those countries instituted their own National Awards. There could be no question of Nigeria instituting a system of dual

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Awards, one by the British Government and the other by the Nigerian Government. There was a danger in having such a system which might embarrass public spirited men. The only possible solution was to have a set of Awards or none at all.

The Committee:

- (2) Agreed that their recommendations should be based upon the institution of a set of Nigerian Honours, Decorations, and Awards and on the basis that Nigeria was free to make its own Awards.

II. FOREIGN HONOURS

The Committee considered the question of Foreign Honours. There were two schools of thought, one favoured the acceptance of such honours subject to the consent of the Government, while the other favoured an absolute prohibition against the acceptance of such Foreign Honours. Alhaji Alli Akilu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning, Northern Nigeria, suggested a compromise that Foreign awards should only be accepted by the Heads of States and Heads of Governments for diplomatic reasons.

Those who favoured absolute prohibition argued that it was essential to guard against Nigerian citizens owing dual loyalties, and that Nigerian citizens representing Nigeria abroad were performing duties for Nigeria, and as such any recognition of their services must be by the Nigerian Government. An exception could, however, be made in favour of the acceptance of awards or prizes for literature or other academic awards.

The Chairman explained that Foreign Honours, when granted to a Nigerian citizen, though a sign of friendly gesture, it was possible for such friendly gesture among States to be shown by other acts such as increase in trade and commercial relationship. It was inadvisable to limit the acceptance of Foreign Honours to a limited class of people. If Foreign Honours were to be accepted there should be no limitation as to the class of people. It was, however, possible to impose condition as in other places that the acceptance of such honours should be subject to the consent of the Government.

The Committee:

- (3) Agreed that Foreign Honours should not be accepted but did not rule out the acceptance of decorations or academic awards as distinct from Honours.

III. DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman referred to the Committee's terms of reference and suggested that, after the exploratory discussion, the Committee might now wish to consider in detail, at subsequent meetings, the various aspects of the terms of reference. They would also wish to consider the classes of awards and honours, decorations, and prizes, and whether there should be a distinction between military and civil awards, and consideration given to the occasions on which such awards or honours should be made.

/Members

Members of the Committee were of the opinion that there should be a distinction between civil and military awards. The civil awards would be restricted to the civilians and members of the Public Service.

The Committee:

- (4) Agreed to consider the form and purposes for which awards should be given as well as occasions on which they would be made at the next meeting.

On the question of the occasion on which the awards should be made, the Secretary to the Prime Minister explained that the question of honour's awards first came into force as a result of certain suggestions that were made during the preparation for the Independence Celebrations, and that such occasion as the Independence Celebrations was usually the occasion on which such honours or awards were made in other countries. There was a suggestion that, in considering the occasions for making the awards, consideration might be given to the Regional Independence Days, but the consensus was that, while the Nigerian Independence Day might be appropriate, it was inadvisable to include Regional Independence Days which were of no significance nationally.

It was suggested that a public notice should, subject to the approval of the Prime Minister, be issued to the general public asking for suggestions on the question of the award of Nigerian honours, and the symbols of such awards, and that any ideas or suggestions so received should be collated by the Secretary to the Committee and circulated to members.

The Chairman, in his closing remarks, informed members of the Committee that the Secretary would circulate to members any materials or opinion that might become available or that might be requested for by members, and that members might forward memoranda or notes, to the Secretary for circulation to members of the Committee.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee should be held at the Cabinet Office, Lagos, on Friday, the 29th of June, at 10 a.m.

Cabinet Office,
LAGOS.

20th April, 1962

MINUTES of the 2nd MEETING of the National Committee
on Nigerian Honours and Awards held in
the Cabinet Office, Lagos, on Friday,
the 13th of JULY, 1962

Present:

Dr. the Hon. T.O. Elias, Q.C. (Chairman)
Attorney-General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice

Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,
Minister of Information,
Kaduna, Northern Nigeria

Hon. M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of Justice,
Enugu, Eastern Nigeria

Mr. S. O. Wey,
Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi,
Secretary to the Administrator,
Ibadan, Western Nigeria

Mr. J. O. Udoji,
Chief Secretary to the Premier,
Enugu, Eastern Nigeria

Alhaji Alli Akilu, M.B.E.,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic
Planning, Kaduna, Northern Nigeria

In attendance:

S.A. Uaboi,
Ag. Senior Assistant Secretary,
Cabinet Office,
LAGOS.

The CHAIRMAN opened the meeting by inviting members to say whether they agreed with the minutes of the meeting which was held on the 18th of April, 1962 as recorded.

The MINISTER OF INFORMATION, Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ibrahim Biu, thought that the Conclusion stated under item II headed Foreign Honours was not complete. He mentioned that there were two schools of thought as regards the acceptance of Foreign Honours: one was that Foreign Honours should not be accepted, and the other was that Foreign Honours might be accepted subject to the approval of the Federal Government. Both of these were correctly recorded in the minutes, but only one was given in the Conclusion. The Committee agreed that the two views should be recorded:-

- (1) That Foreign Honours should not be accepted, but that this would not rule out the acceptance of decorations or academic awards as distinct from Honours.
- (2) That Foreign Honours may be accepted provided the prior approval of the Federal Government is obtained.

2. In the absence of any other correction, the minutes were adopted.

3. ADVERTISEMENT:

The Secretary to the Administrator of Western Nigeria, Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi, wanted to know why the draft of the notice which was published in the newspapers was not first of all circulated to members for approval. The Chairman asked what his objections were, but Mr. Ejiwunmi said he had nothing against the notice as it stood. The Chairman then explained that the former Secretary had cleared the draft notice with him before it was sent out for publication. He thought that it must be to save time that the Secretary did not send the draft to every member of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Secretary how wide had been the advertisement and how great the response had been from the general public. The Secretary explained that the notice was sent to the Regional Ministries of Information for distribution to the various newspapers, and that over a dozen newspapers, both National and Regional, gave publicity to it. Announcements were also made by the various Broadcasting systems. Both the West African Pilot and the Daily Times carried editorials commending the steps being taken by the Federal Government in this respect.

The Secretary then informed the Committee that a few bills had been sent in by some newspapers and that payments had been made, except in the case of 'Africa' magazine which had sent in a bill for £25. The Treasury refused to pay as they felt the charge was rather exorbitant.

Some members expressed the view that more time should be given to the public when the next notice was put out, and that the notice should be in the form of a questionnaire to be agreed upon between the Chairman and the Secretary. It was not necessary to refer a draft to members of the Committee.

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The Committee agreed:-

- (1) That a new advertisement in the form of a questionnaire should be published in the newspapers and that the closing date should be September 30, 1962.
- (2) That payments for the advertisements are to be made wherever necessary.

4. GENERAL QUESTION OF AWARDS

The CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE PREMIER, Eastern Nigeria, Mr. Udoji, felt that the question of Nigerian Honours and Awards is a very important one and that, as such, it should be given careful consideration. Mr. Udoji did not see any urgency in the matter since Nigeria could not award her own Honours in her present state as a monarchy: Nigeria would not be free to make her own awards until she became a Republic and no one was sure when this would take place.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the point raised by Mr. Udoji had been discussed at length and disposed of at the last meeting, and that it was important that we did something now about awarding Nigerian Honours in view of the public out-cry against the continued acceptance of Foreign Honours by Nigerians. The Prime Minister had all these factors in mind when he decided to appoint the Committee to make a full study and submit recommendations on a worthwhile system of awards that would be completely Nigerian. Our task is to aim at complying with our terms of reference.

5. THE ISSUE OF REGIONAL AWARDS:-

The MINISTER OF INFORMATION, Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ibrahim Biu, suggested that the Regions should be free to give their own awards, especially in cases where distinguished visitors paid official visits to such Regions. The Chief Secretary to the Premier, Eastern Nigeria, Mr. Udoji, disagreed and said that any recommendations made by this Committee must have National significance in order to mobilise and foster national unity. He suggested that any Region could confer with Federal Government in order to confer National honours on their guests.

The SECRETARY TO THE ADMINISTRATOR, Mr. Ejiwunmi, recalled that some time ago, Chief Akintola as Premier of the West had told certain chiefs that they must stop the indiscriminate conferring of non-traditional chieftaincy titles which meant nothing, and that they must set up a committee in order to evolve some system of awards with which to honour their leaders.

The CHAIRMAN wondered whether the present system whereby, for example, the Sardauna honoured his guests by giving them presents in the form of costly gowns and sometimes horses was not enough. Alhaji Akilu replied that such gifts would hardly be satisfactory if the President of Malaya were to visit the North. The Chairman then pointed out that while he was thinking of Alhaji Biu's suggestion as relating to internal recognition, Alhaji Akilu was thinking of external awards.

ALHAJI BIU stressed the fact that, while he was entirely for national unity, he still felt that the Regions should have their own independent source of awards, since what might be accepted in one Region could hardly be acceptable in another. He gave examples of Oduduwa, King Jaja of Opobo,

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and Othman-dan-Fodio, each of which has meaning and significance only in particular parts of the Federation.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the Committee should not get too much involved in local and Regional awards since its task is entirely National.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE, Eastern Nigeria, Hon. Ajegbo, said he agreed with the views expressed by Alhaji Biu, and suggested that the Federal Government might content itself with making only very few awards while conceding more to the Regions to be distributed as they thought best.

The SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER wondered if we might not adopt the system in Ethiopia where special awards are made to chiefs. The Chairman pointed out, however, that Ethiopia is a unitary state, while Nigeria is a Federation and it is appropriate that the Federal Government should be the only Fountain of Honour.

The SECRETARY TO THE ADMINISTRATOR, Mr. Ejiwunmi, warned that in order to avoid sectionalism and tribal jealousies, great care must be taken to see that names of regional figures would not be mentioned when the final recommendations were made.

6. SYMBOLS, ETC., ON AWARDS

The MINISTER OF INFORMATION, Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Biu, also appealed to the Committee to refrain from using the sign of the cross in whatever medals might be recommended, since Northerners who are Moslems generally associated the cross with christianity and might resent its appearance in such insignia.

The SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER also warned that we should equally avoid the K.C.M.G. letter type of honours. The Chief Secretary to the Eastern Premier, Mr. Udoji, thought that this must depend upon the final form the awards would take - whether these would be titles qualifying recipients to use letters after their names, or mere decorations to be worn on ceremonial decorations.

The Committee:

Agreed to defer final determination in respect of Regional Awards, designs of medals, and what names to mention in the awards until it was time to make a final recommendation to the Hon. Prime Minister.

7. MILITARY, POLICE, ETC, AWARDS

The CHAIRMAN suggested, and the Committee agreed, that the Secretary should address letters to the Heads of the Army, Navy, Police, and the Prisons asking for their recommendations and suggestions as to what Honours and Awards, if any, might be made to members of their forces.

8. SUMMARIES OF SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED:

The CHAIRMAN informed members of the Committee that the Secretary would circulate to them a comprehensive summary of all the suggestions received thus far from the Nigerian public as well as the foreign embassies. Also to be circulated

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would be all fresh materials which might become available as a result of the new appeal to the public and Heads of the Forces.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee should be held at the Cabinet Office, on Friday, the 26th October, 1962, at 10 a.m.

Cabinet Office,
LAGOS.

27th July, 1962

NOTICE

NIGERIAN HONOURS, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

The National Committee on the award of Nigerian Honours would welcome suggestions from the general public on the following questions:-

- (i) Do you consider that there should be only one set of National Awards, or do you consider that there should also be Regional Awards either for services rendered to the Regions or in recognition of visiting foreign dignitaries?
- (ii) Do you consider that such awards should take the form of:-
 - (a) titles, which qualify recipients to use letters after their names, or
 - (b) decorations, which qualify recipients to wear medals on ceremonial occasions, or
 - (c) both, or
 - (d) neither?
- (iii) Do you consider that Foreign Honours should be accepted by Nigerians, with or without the approval of the Federal Government?

2. Please address all communications to:-

The Secretary,
National Committee on Nigerian Honours,
c/o Cabinet Office,
LAGOS.

3. It will be appreciated if your suggestions are forwarded to the Secretary not later than the 30th of September, 1962.

Dear Sir,

As you are probably aware, a National Committee was set up by the Hon. Prime Minister last April to look into the question of Nigerian Honours and Awards. The Chairman of this Committee is Dr. the Hon. T. O. Elias, Q.C., Attorney-General and Minister of Justice.

I should be grateful for your general views and suggestions as to the type of awards, if any, you think would be suitable to members of your Force or department.

Your early reply will be appreciated.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S. A. Uaboi
for Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. J. E. Hodge, C.M.G., C.V.O.,
Inspector-General of Police,
LAGOS.

Major General C.E. Welby-Everard, C.B., O.B.E.,
General Officer Commanding,
c/o Ministry of Defence,
LAGOS.

Commodore A. R. Kennedy, O.B.E.,
Royal Nigerian Navy,
c/o Ministry of Defence,
LAGOS.

Mr. F.S. Giwa-Osagie,
Director of Prisons,
Alagbon Close,
Ikoyi, LAGOS.

Minutes of the 3RD MEETING of the
National Committee on Nigerian Honours
and Awards held in the Committee Room
No.1, Cabinet Office, Lagos, on
Friday, October 26, 1962,
at 10 a.m.

P r e s e n t:

Dr. the Hon. T. O. Elias, Q.C., (Chairman)
Attorney-General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice.

Mr. Adeniyi-Williams,
Commissioner,
Ministry of Works and Transport,
Ibadan.

Mr. S. O. Wey,
Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi,
Secretary to the Administrator,
Ibadan.

Mr. J. O. Udoji,
Chief Secretary to the Premier,
Enugu.

In attendance

S. A. Uaboi,
Ag. Senior Assistant Secretary,
Cabinet Office,
Lagos.

The Chairman proposed that, subject to any amendments which members might like to make the minutes of the meeting held on July 13, 1962, be taken as read.

The Chief Secretary to the Premier, Eastern Nigeria, said that the last sentence of paragraph 1, of Section 4, did not convey correctly what he said at the last meeting. What he said was that it would not be advisable or appropriate for Nigeria to make her own awards until she became a Republic. He did not say that Nigeria would not be free to make her own awards, as was recorded. In order to put the record right the Committee agreed to the following form of words:

That Mr. Udoji did not see any urgency in the matter since Nigeria could not award her own Honours in her present state as a monarchy and that it would not be advisable or appropriate for Nigeria to make her own awards until she became a Republic and no one was sure when this would take place.

In the absence of any other correction, the minutes were adopted.

PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Chairman invited the Secretary to report what action he had taken regarding the decisions of the last meeting about advertisements and letters that were to have been written to the Armed Forces and the Police.

The Secretary explained that the replies to his letters to the heads of the Army, Navy, Police and the Prisons had already been circulated to members, as also had the replies (in the form of over a thousand letters) received from the general public in response to the advertised questionnaire.

The Secretary further explained that bills amounting to well over two hundred pounds had been received from certain newspapers. Two bills amounting to more than a hundred pounds were also received from the NBC and the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria.

It was the view of members that no payment should be made to the N.B.C. and the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria, and the Secretary to the Prime Minister promised to take up the matter with those concerned. As regards bills received from the various newspapers, the Committee agreed that these should be referred to the Ministry of Information for settlement.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) That no payment was to be made in respect of the announcements made by the N.B.C. and the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria in connection with National Honours and Awards, and
- (ii) That the Ministry of Information should be responsible for settling the bills received from the various newspapers in respect of the questionnaire published by them.

PREPARATION OF REPORT

3. The Chairman suggested to members that the Committee had reached a stage at which it should endeavour to forward its recommendations to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister before the end of this year.

Consequently, he would suggest, subject to the concurrence of members, that decisions be taken at this meeting on the number of civil and military awards that were to be made annually. In order to enhance their value, these should be as few as possible for a start.

Secondly, members were to go through the materials so far received and, in addition to their personal views, make suggestions as to the kinds of awards they would like the Federal Government to make. Members should try to submit their suggestions to the Secretary of the Committee within 10 days.

As soon as the suggestions were received, a short draft report would be prepared and circulated to members at least two weeks before the date of the next meeting.

It was suggested by the Commissioner for Works, Western Nigeria, that it would be better for the regional groups to submit joint reports rather than individual members submitting reports. The Chairman agreed, but said there was no harm in an individual submitting a report should he disagree with such a joint report.

The Secretary to the Prime Minister then raised the issue of Regional Awards as advocated by the members from the North during the last meeting. He felt the Regions should be free to make any awards they considered necessary at the local administration level.

The Chairman said this Committee was charged with responsibility for making recommendations in respect of National Awards, and should not concern itself with making recommendations on Regional Awards as such. He added, however, that the Regions should be free to make their own arrangements if they so desired, but that this Committee should make it clear that such awards must in any case be merely supplementary to the National Awards.

The Chief Secretary to the Eastern Nigeria Government agreed with the Chairman, and said that the Committee was set up to decide on National Awards, and should not at all interest itself in Regional Awards.

The Committee agreed :-

- (i) That members' suggestions in regard to the number and nature of awards should reach the Secretary within 10 days i.e. by the 5th of November, 1962, and
- (ii) That a draft report should be ready for members' consideration by the next meeting.

PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING AWARDS:

4. The Chairman asked members to express their views on the questionnaire in the light of the suggestions that were received from the general public.

- (i) Do you consider that there should be only one set of National Awards, or do you consider that there should also be Regional Awards either for services rendered to the Regions

or in recognition of visiting foreign dignitaries?

It was suggested by the Commissioner for Works Western Nigeria and by the Secretary to the Administrator, that on the basis of the suggestions sent in by members of the public, there should be only National Awards.

The Chief Secretary to the Eastern Nigeria Government stated categorically that he and his Government were against any Regional Awards. He thought the main problem facing our country at the moment was that of National unity, and the institution of National Awards was one way of helping to mobilise and foster National loyalty and unity. He maintained that all honours should emanate from one source, and that any Region which wanted to honour any foreign dignitary could always make its wishes known to the Federal Government which would then make the requisite award on the former's behalf. The Chief Secretary went on to say that any idea of Regional awards was merely a way of dividing the country. He concluded by saying that he agreed with the Chairman that, in order to have the desired effect as marks of special distinction, honours must be few and restricted.

The Secretary to the Prime Minister said he, too, was against any Regional awards as such, but thought there should be no objections to local authorities making their own awards.

The Committee agreed:

That there should be only one set of National Awards, although due note was taken of the suggestion made at the last meeting by the Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria, that the Regions should be free to make their own awards, especially in cases where distinguished visitors paid official visits to such Regions.

(ii) Do you consider that such awards should take the form of :-

(a) titles, which qualify recipients to use letters after their names, or

- (b) decorations, which qualify recipients to wear medals on ceremonial occasions, or
- (c) both, or
- (d) neither?

The Committee Agreed:

By all the members that awards should take the form of titles, recipients should be allowed to use letters after their names, but that the initial number of awards should be very limited. All honours should carry appropriate decorations and/or medals.

- (iii) Do you consider that Foreign Honours should be accepted by Nigerians, with or without the approval of the Federal Government?

The Committee Agreed:

By all the members that Foreign Honours might be accepted only with the approval of the Federal Government.

CATEGORIES OF TITLES:

5. The Chairman explained that it was necessary to decide now, as a guide, how many categories of titles were to be had. He thought the number should be as small as possible.

After some discussions, it was agreed,

- (a) that there should be FOUR distinct groups of honours and that details of these should be embodied in the recommendations to be forwarded by members to the Secretary to the Committee within 10 days; and
- (b) that all the FOUR classes of honour were to be accompanied with appropriately worded scrolls.

TYPES OF AWARDS:

6. Various suggestions were made as to the types of awards that should be made. Among these were :

- (a) A cap.
- (b) Ribbon with a medal, the ribbon to be made up of the National colours.

(c) A gold chain with a gold medal.

The Committee chose (b), since this could be worn on any type of dress and also because it could be readily seen at night. The ribbon of National colours would also give it a distinct mark.

ARMED FORCES' AWARDS:

7. The Committee agreed that the four categories of civilian awards as in paragraph 5 above should also apply to the armed forces, although a separate set of medals could, in addition, be awarded for gallantry and for general meritorious service. The Police should enjoy these extra categories of awards.

8. The Committee, therefore, agreed to the following types of honours in a descending order of precedence :-

- (i) A gold medal on a ribbon of national colours.
- (ii) A silver medal inset in a gold rim on a ribbon of national colours.
- (iii) A bronze medal inset in a silver rim on a ribbon of national colours.
- (iv) A bronze medal on a ribbon of national colours.

It was further agreed that each of these honours should be accompanied by an appropriately worded and inscribed scroll, and that each medal should carry the Nigerian Coat of Arms on one side, and an outline map of Nigeria, on the other side.

HONOURS FOR FOREIGNERS:

9. The Secretary to the Prime Minister suggested, and it was agreed, that these foreigners should be considered under two heads:

- (i) Heads of States.
- (ii) Other important individuals.

In respect of the former, the Committee agreed that an award should take the form of a sash with a gold medal; while as regards the latter, a silver medal hung on a ribbon should be in order. Appropriate scrolls should also accompany both types of honours.

It was emphasised that only visitors on State Visits to Nigeria should be eligible for these awards. Such visitors might be the guests of either the Federal or a Regional Government, but the award of honours should have been duly approved in advance of the visit.

10. ACADEMIC HONOURS, ETC.

The Committee agreed to recommend that the Federal Government's approval should not be required as a condition for the acceptance by Nigerians of academic or professional titles, honours and awards from foreign countries or from any of the Governments of the Federation.

11. OCCASIONS FOR MAKING AWARDS:

The Committee agreed that this should be the National Day, i.e. October 1 of each year.

12. COUNCIL ON THE AWARD OF NATIONAL HONOURS:

The Chairman informed members that it would be necessary, in due course, to set up a permanent Advisory Council on the award of National Honours whose duty would be to make recommendations to H.E. the Governor-General on the issue of annual awards. Such a Council should be composed of members from all the Regions.

The Committee agreed to include in its Report a recommendation that a permanent body to be known as the Advisory Council on the award of National Honours be set up with effect from the inception of a system of award of national honours.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee should be held at the Cabinet Office, Lagos, on Friday, November 30, 1962, at 10 a.m.

CABINET OFFICE,
LAGOS.

October 29, 1962.

MINUTES of the 4TH and FINAL MEETING
of the National Committee on Nigerian Honours
and Awards held in the Committee Room No.1,
Cabinet Office, Lagos, on Friday,
November 30, 1962, at 10 a.m.

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Present:

Dr. the Honourable T.O. Elias, Q.C., (Chairman)
Attorney-General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice.

Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,
Minister of Information,
Kaduna.

Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi,
Secretary to the Administrator,
Ibadan.

Alhaji Alli Akilu, M.B.E.,
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Planning,
Kaduna.

In Attendance

S.A. Uaboi,
Ag. Senior Assistant Secretary,
Cabinet Office,
Lagos.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND APOLOGIES:

The Chairman informed members that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of Eastern Nigeria telephoned him to say that he would not be present at this meeting as he had to attend an important Executive Council Meeting. He thought the same excuse could be made by the Chief Secretary to the Eastern Nigeria Premier. The Commissioner of Works, Western Nigeria, also telephoned to say that he was accompanying the Administrator on his tour of the Mid-west.

The Chairman further informed members that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Eastern Nigeria, had written to express his approval of the draft report circulated.

The Chairman then proposed, and it was agreed that, the minutes of the meeting held on October 26, 1962, be taken as read.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

(1) FOREIGN AWARDS:

The Minister of Information, Northern Nigeria, wanted it placed on record that he still felt that there should be both National and Regional Awards.

It was also the view of his Government that members of his Government and other official delegations going abroad should be free to accept honours from the countries visited without the permission of the Federal Government.

The Chairman said he had no objection to this view being recorded and as a minority report to the main report to be submitted to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister. He felt, however, that this suggestion would be against the Constitution since the Federal Government was exclusively responsible for the country's Foreign Affairs. He further explained that, once the Foreign countries became aware of the regulations governing the

acceptance of foreign honours by Nigerians, they would refrain from bestowing such honours without prior consultation with the prospective recipients in order to ascertain whether or not Federal Government's approval would be forthcoming.

The Permanent Secretary to the Northern Ministry of Economic Planning wondered if it would not be sufficient if any delegations going abroad sought clearance from the Prime Minister as to the line of action they should take if they were suddenly offered the award of honours by such countries. The Chairman did not see anything wrong in this line of approach.

(ii) PAYMENTS FOR ADVERTISEMENT:

The Permanent Secretary to the Northern Ministry of Economic Planning did not agree with an earlier decision that payments in respect of the advertisements concerning the questionnaire should not be made to the Broadcasting systems, especially that of the North which was a public company. He would have preferred the Broadcasting company itself refusing to accept payment. The Northern Minister of Information said that he was informed that payment had since been made to the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria.

The Chairman explained that the decision had been taken because it was felt that, by their broadcast, these companies were making their own national contribution to such an important matter of public interest. He added, however, that it had always been understood that, if any Broadcasting company pressed for payment, then the Federal Ministry of Information would pay.

3. THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

It was unanimously agreed that the Draft Report be adopted as circulated and that it be submitted to the Prime Minister by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

4. DETAILS OF AWARDS:

The Committee decided that all the details of the exact titles, decorations, etc., should be left to the Council on the Awards of National Honours which it had been recommended the Prime Minister should establish in consultation with the other Governments in the Federation.

5. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS:

The Chairman thanked members for their co-operation and contribution since this Committee was set up over six months previously. He assured them that the Committee's Report would be submitted to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister as soon as possible.

University College,
Ibadan,
or
Ministry of Works and
Transport, Ibadan.

6th November, 1962.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting held in the Cabinet Office on Friday the 26th of October, in connection with Nigerian Honours and Awards, the following are my suggestions as to the form the Honour should take and the qualifications for their entitlement:

Name and Form

I agree with the suggestions at the meeting that there should be only one Order with 4 Classes or Titles to the Order and I suggest that the name of the Order should be:-

"Order of the Nigerian Federation".

The four Classes may then be

- (i) Grand Commander of the Order of the Nigerian Federation G.C.N.F.
- (ii) Companion of the Order of the Nigerian Federation C.N.F.
- (iii) Officer of the Order of the Nigerian Federation O.N.F.
- (iv) Member of the Order of the Nigerian Federation M.N.F.

All should have scrolls and medals. The medals to be of metals as decided at the last meeting.

- i.e. (i) Gold
(ii) Silver with Gold inset
(iii) Silver
(iv) Bronze with Silver inset.

Qualification for the Award should be:-

- (1) Outstanding service in the country's Civil Service, whether Federal or Regional, measured either by long and meritorious service or a spectacular contribution or performance by a member of the Civil Service in the discharge of his duties or any special duty that might be assigned to him by any of the Governments of the Federation.

Entitlement (i) - (iv)

- (2) Meritorious or Outstanding contribution in the field of Education, Literature, Medicine, Science, Arts and Culture. Entitlement (i) - (iv).
- (3) Meritorious service in the Country's Foreign Service and in the promotion of good International relationship.

Entitlement (i) - (iv).

- (4) Outstanding contribution to the cause of Sports or outstanding performance in any field of sports.

Entitlement (ii) - (iv).

- (5) Outstanding contribution to the cause of Commerce or in furthering the commercial prosperity of the Country.

Entitlement (ii) - (iv).

- (6) Outstanding contribution to inter-regional understanding.

Entitlement (i) - (iv).

As to which of the four classes is awarded will depend mainly on the recommendation made by any of the Governments of the Federation.

Apart from the above I am suggesting that a "Certificate of Merit" be awarded in cases where an honour is merited solely by long service but where the award of any of the four classes listed above may not be appropriate or even merited.

May I also suggest another award, as distinct from any of the above, which should be awarded solely for outstanding bravery either in battle or in time of Civil emergency.

I have in mind the equivalent of the Victoria Cross award for which I suggest the name:

"Order of the Valiant"

There should be a Military as well as a Civil Class to the award.

The medal should be made of a metal which depicts strength and courage typifying the essence of the act for which it is awarded. Therefore, I suggest it should be struck of a suitable rustless, non-tarnished metal alloy. The insignia on one side should be an upturned award flanked by garlands (as per diagram) and on the other side the Nigerian Coat of Arms.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Adeniyi Williams
Commissioner for Works & Transport,
Western Region.

Order of the Niger

Order of the Green Flag

Order of the Benue

Order of the Delta.

Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,
Minister of Information,
Northern Nigeria.

Order of the Federation of Nigeria (O.F.N.)

Grand Officer:

Governors; High Commissioners.

Senators of not less than 10 years' Service

Chief Justices.

Outstanding very senior Civil Servants.

Commander:

Members of Administrative Class in the Civil Service

and persons of similar status in Commercial Firms.

Officer:

Senior Civil Servants and others in private and
public life of similar status and responsibility.

Chevalier:

or

Member:

Others deserving of honours.

Mr. T. O. Ejiwunmi,
Administrator's Office,
IBADAN.

Certificates of Honour or Merit to be awarded to
civil servants, employees in the Statutory Corporations,
and members of the general public.

Alhaji Alli Akilu, M.E.E.,
Ministry of Economic Planning,
KADUNA.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: WESTERN NIGERIA

Nigerian Honours and Awards

Memorandum by the Honourable Premier

Sometime in 1961, the Prime Minister of the Federation set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. the Hon. T. O. Elias, Q.C., Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, on Nigerian Honours and Awards with the following terms of reference:-

- "(i) To examine and report on the question of Nigerian Honours and Awards;
- (ii) To consider whether or not there should be a distinction between civil and military honours and awards;
- (iii) To consider and report on the conditions of eligibility for such awards and the symbol, insignia, decorations or medals in respect of each type of award and the occasions on which such medals or decorations should be worn;
- (iv) To consider and report if any privileges, rights, or benefits should be attached to national honours; and
- (v) To consider and report on the general question of award of foreign honours and the conditions and procedure for the acceptance of such awards or honours".

This Region was represented on the Committee by the Secretary to the Premier & Executive Council. The Committee has now reported and the Prime Minister has requested the views of this Government on the Report, extracts of which are attached to this memorandum.

2. In view of the fact that Nigeria would become a Republic on the 1st of October next and of the possibility

of instituting the award of Nigerian Honours on that day, it has been necessary to deal with this matter with the greatest urgency. I have, therefore, on behalf of this Government, and after consultations with the Chairman, Public Service Commission, the Acting Head of the Service and the Secretary to the Premier & Executive Council, forwarded the following comments to the Secretary to the Prime Minister on the Summary-of Recommendations:-

- That*
- (i) Paragraphs (i)-(iii), (v) and (vii) to (xii) of the Summary of Recommendations are wholly acceptable to this Government;
 - (ii) That, contrary to paragraph (iv), some sort of privileges be attached to the awards, such as, order of precedence, and status, which should be accorded to the recipients on State occasions;
 - (iii) That in addition to the provisions of subsections (i) and (ii) of paragraph (vi) it will be necessary that the title of the award or order, as well as the different categories under it be clearly designated and not left to the discretion of the Advisory Council on the Award of National Honours which is to be set up. In this regard, the suggestion by Mr. Adeniyi-Williams in Annexure (v) to the Report are highly commended;
 - (iv) That the existing arrangement whereby quotas of the various awards or decorations are allocated to all the Regions in respect of each occasion that an award has to be made should be continued;
 - (v) That recommendations made by each Regional Government, within the prescribed quota, should be approved as a matter of formality and not subject to further consideration by the Advisory Council on the Award of National Honours;
 - (vi) That provision be made for the number of awards or decorations of

high calibre in various categories to be restricted in order to ensure that only people deserving of honour are considered and awarded the honour.

3. Council is hereby requested to give retrospective approval to the comments contained in subsections (i)-(vi) of paragraph 2 above.

(Intld.) S. L. A.

Premier's Office,
Ibadan,
Western Nigeria,
July, 1963.

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