

BIAFRAN NEWS AGENCY

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Late News:

Nigerian Ambassador to US, Oluwole Rotimi Sacked: Calls Biafra Army A "rag-tag Army"

Nigerian Ambassador to US, Oluwole Rotimi, Sacked(thisday news)

•Calls Foreign Minister a tribalist •Boasts that he defeated Maduekwe's "ragtag" Biafran Army
By Yemi Adebawale in Lagos and Constance Ikoku in Washington DC, 02.14.2009

President Umaru Yar'Adua has approved the immediate recall of Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States, retired Brigadier-General Oluwole Rotimi, for "gross insubordination. " Sources at the Nigerian embassy in Washington DC said the decision to recall Rotimi followed his running disagreement with the Foreign Affairs Minister, Ojo Maduekwe, over issues bordering on activities of the mission, policy, protocol and hierarchy.

The disagreement that was said to have started last year resulted in a series of correspondence between Maduekwe and Rotimi, culminating in a letter written by the latter in which he called the minister a tribalist and boasted, "I have dealt with people like you in the past. I was the Adjutant General of the Nigerian army that thoroughly defeated your ragtag Biafran army."

Maduekwe who was piqued by the contents of the letter, particularly the reference to the Biafran war, formally complained to the President in a memo, attaching Rotimi's letter.

Maduekwe in his letter to the President stated: "This man (Rotimi) has no temperament to be an ambassador of Nigeria in our most important mission.

"This is a strategic assessment of the situation. Anyone who has such a disposition may not be able to handle the Nigerian embassy in Washington, which is deemed in Nigerian diplomatic circles as a strategic and sensitive mission.

"The recommendation that he be recalled has to do with his capacity to run the place. It is not personal."

It was on this basis that the President immediately approved his recall from the mission. In the interim, Ambassador Wakil, the Deputy Ambassador has been asked to oversee the mission pending the appointment of a replacement.

All efforts to reach the Ambassador last night on his mobile phone proved unsuccessful as it kept entering voice mail. Voice messages were not returned as at press time either.

A Nigerian embassy official in Washington disclosed that the root cause of the friction between both officials started sometime last year when Maduekwe wrote two letters inviting the Ambassador and his deputy, Ambassador Wakil to a meeting in Abuja to discuss the emergence of Barack Obama as the 44th US President and what it would mean for Nigeria-US relations. Rotimi was said to have felt slighted that the minister wrote a separate letter to his deputy whom he regarded as his subordinate.

He subsequently wrote two protest letters - one to Maduekwe and a second one to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Yayale Ahmed. He also asked that the trip be rescheduled to enable him sort out one or two things.

Not satisfied, Rotimi further wrote to Senator Jubril Aminu, Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the same issue.

Rotimi then proceeded to Abuja when he did not receive an official reply from the minister. Maduekwe on the other hand was reportedly irked that the Ambassador proceeded on the trip without the necessary approval.

Rotimi's action, an embassy official divulged, was seen as an infringement of an important regulation regarding the movement of public officers.

Insiders familiar with the Nigerian civil service set up said his trip was arbitrary given his protest letter and request for a postponement of the meeting, and that since he had not received feedback, it was seen as gross insubordination within foreign service regulations.

According to an official: "when you write, you wait for a reply. Movement must be sanctioned by your boss."

Similarly, Maduekwe's effort to streamline the operations of the foreign affairs ministry, particularly the embassies, was said to have been resisted by Rotimi in Washington.

The minister's brusque style of leadership has reportedly ruffled feathers in the foreign service where most officials are used to "business as usual" bosses.

As such, the little or lack of cordial relations between both men compounded matters, making it almost impossible to mend fences.

In addition, other occurrences pointed to strained relations between the public officers. The usual practice is that an Ambassador receives the foreign minister at the airport when he arrives a country, and sees him off at the end of his official trip.

This was not the case when the minister visited Washington sometime last year to give a talk at a think-tank in the capital city.

However, by January this year, Rotimi tried to seek a rapprochement when he led a delegation to receive Maduekwe who flew into Washington as the head of the Nigerian delegation to President Obama's inauguration.

But the short-lived détente came under strain again when Rotimi, during the swearing-in ceremony, introduced Emeka Anyaoku, the president's special envoy, as the leader of delegation in the presence of the minister.

THISDAY learnt that there was actually a disagreement before the trip as to who should lead the delegation to the event.

Eventually, Anyaoku was mandated to head the Federal Government team, while Maduekwe led the foreign ministry team.

But this presented an image problem for Nigeria, because it gave the impression that the home base was in disarray.

Another official of the Nigerian embassy in Washington alleged that Rotimi only appeared for work at the embassy thrice a week and retired to Florida where he has a home, for the rest of the week. "How can he effectively run a key embassy like this," the official queried.

Before the latest incident that led to Rotimi's recall, Anyaoku it was gathered, tried to reconcile the two men shortly after Obama's inauguration, but failed.

Rotimi was a former military governor of the old Western State from 1971 to 1975. He arrived Washington DC on 31st March 2008, and presented his Letters of Credence to the then President, George Bush at the White House, on April 9, 2008.

His sudden recall means that Nigeria will have to deal with the signals the incident would send to the international community, explained a diplomatic source.

One way to save face is to show that Nigeria is ready to revamp its foreign relations machinery and sharpen its focus on improving the effectiveness of the country's foreign missions overseas, he said.

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Comments:

, "I have dealt with people like you in the past. I was the Adjutant General of the Nigerian army that thoroughly defeated your ragtag Biafran army."

Rotimi

* To all those who keep on believing in "ONE NIGERIA" this is what the pay back will continue to be. These maggots in the person of Rotimi, pot belied soldiers will continue to insult Biafra and in your face insult. If this maggot can say this about Biafra after several years, imagine the type of services he has been rendering to the Biafrans of his imaginary Nigeria and imaginary defeat?

This statement must not be allowed to die off and so Umu Igbo Umu Biafra must now arise and follow it up. This one is the type of fight that I like to engage in.

Cornel

* Folks,

The above by Cornel should not be the end of this discussion, until our line of action to disrupt any other appointments or benefits this fool gets from his stupidity.

,will send a serious message to his likes that Biafra lives!

AO

* Where do we individually, jointly, unionly and organizationly send our written protests, phone calls? Where do gather to protest? This is more than internet outrage and ranting.

BEKEE

* So until ndilgbo acknowledge their realities, rebrand and project a progressive, united, "educated" and politically astute and conscious class based on our recent experience and history, and stop begging for their existence as if anyone owes them anything, I'm afraid the Rotimis of this world will continue to take ndilgbo for granted as a defeated and rudderless bunch! By the way, I'm happy and I commend Ojo Maduekwe for not allowing such impolitical temperament and insurbodination from Rotimi not go unaddressed. That is what I expect any minister, talkless a Biafran to do in the face of such undiplomatic conduct. And that should do it without escalating one man's stupidity into a national foible. Other Efulufus should learn.

Bravo Ojo!

Ya Gazie,

/mcb

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

* Rotimi should be told that the "ragtag" Biafran Army fought his so-called elite army [nigerian vandals], plus well equipped british army, arab army and russian army for three solid years with Biafran made arms and might. That was then, the new Biafran army, the new generation of Biafran Crusaders are ready **[I mean ready today]** to carry this fight to his door step, I mean to life – the shrine of Oduduwa and Sokoto the seat of the caliphate any day any time. The only thing that will save nigeria from the pending Armageddon is to let Biafrans go in peace. NOW!

Biafrans have no business in nigeria. Nigerian apologist should hear this and act wisely, if Maduekwe the so-called minister of state was treat with such disdain then what are they waiting for, they must embrace our Biafran emancipation campaign now before it is too late. Biafra Lives!

Offor.

* Umu Igbo,

Onye kwuru na ogu Nigeria na Biafra ebiela?. May be this so-called Ambassador to the United States thinks that he is still 'Adjutant-General' and the Foreign Minister is one of his soldiers. So, he can address him as he likes as in the above EXCERPT going as far as INSULTING the Foreign Minister's Ethnic group that number almost 50 Million with

about Ten Million living in other parts of the World. If there is a TRUE government in Nigeria, this Rotimi of man should have been 'bundled' into the next AVAILABLE plane and repatriated back to Nigeria. He should not even be seen in any part of the U.S. be it Florida because Umu Igbo will see him. WHO SAID THAT Nigeria-Biafra war has ENDED.?!!!.

Nnanta.

* The problem with many Igbo and Biafrans today is that they revel in psychological denial, and turn despicable cowardice into a virtue, in their psychological illness. They still believe that staying in a Nigeria that still rapes them daily is the correct answer. Fools! Don't worry, the war has just begun we will fight to the end and Biafra will emerge victorious in this generation.

SG

* If Rotimi is sighted anywhere in US or Niageria/Biafraland, kill him! BOFF.

* Biafra/Nigeria War: good morning Maduekwe, good night Rotimi. Good morning Maduekwe, pity you are just realizing that Biafrans are not wanted in Nigeria and good night Rotimi, this should be the end if a carrier, the end of false personality that most Nigerian diplomats portray. Nigeria is a corrupt country where any retired arm-chair general as they were, sees his new status as a credential to ask for any position, to loot, to oppress and kill the people. Little wonder, why Nigeria is a failed state and the greatest disappointment of the 21st century.

Wanna.

Send Your Protest to:

presidency@nopa.gov.ng, admin@nopa.net, webmaster@nigeria.gov.ng,
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copy:

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