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Nigerian table of content A 1989 publication of the Federal Military Government, Four Years of the Babangida Administration, summarizes the priorities of Nigeria's foreign policy: the end of apartheid in south Africa; strengthening Nigeria's relations with the member states of the European Economic Community (EEC), the United States, the Soviet Union and other major industrialized countries as foreign investment and capital flows to Nigeria increase; and continued support from international organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Relations with other African states are the cornerstone of Nigeria's foreign policy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is directly responsible for the development and implementation of foreign policy. Since the questions usually remain in the hands of the Minister and his officials, foreign policy positions can change radically from one minister to another, depending on the minister's orientation. In addition to the minister's direct staff, the foreign policy elite included other high-ranking government officials, interest group leaders, academics, top military officers, religious leaders and journalists. This elite exerted indirect influence through communiques and press releases, as well as direct pressure on the government. In 1986, a conference was held to which all segments of the elite were invited to consider Nigeria's foreign policy and recommendations for a broad political framework for the 1990s and other years. Several factors have been snu relied on Nigeria's foreign policy positions. First, the country's ethnic and religious mix requires cautious positions on certain issues, such as policy towards Israel. Nigeria found it difficult to restore diplomatic relations with Israel and did not do so until 1990 because of Muslim opposition and sympathy for the rest of the Arab Muslim world. Secondly, Nigeria's legacy as a former British colony, coupled with its energy role in the world economy, has pre-edged Nigeria to be pro-Western on most issues, despite a desire to maintain an uncoated status to avoid neo-colonialism. In 1990, this pro-Western position was reinforced by Nigeria's economic diplomacy, which included negotiations on trade concessions, attracting foreign investors and restructuring debt repayments to Western creditors. Thirdly, the country's membership in a number of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the bodies mentioned earlier, has also had an impact on foreign policy positions. Fourth, and most importantly, as the most populous country in Africa and the entire black world, Nigeria perceived itself as a giant of Africa and a potential leader Race. Thus, Nigeria's external relations highlighted the African problems that have become recognized as a cornerstone of foreign policy. These factors have led to some issues dominating Nigeria's foreign policy in different governments, but each government has distinctive priorities and style. In the 1950s and early 1960s, foreign policies aimed at proper behaviour in the international system and the British authorities played an important role in Nigerian international relations. Consequently, The Balev government emphasized world peace, respected sovereign equality and supported non-aligned friendship with any country that took a reciprocal position. After the fall of the First Republic, critics argued that the government was too pro-Western and insufficient to measure decolonization or integration, and that the low profile was embarrassing. Nevertheless, Govon continued to keep a low profile, acting within the framework of the OAU consensus and following the paths of quiet diplomacy. The civil war marked a clear breakthrough in Nigeria's foreign policy. The actions of various countries and international bodies during the war have raised awareness of the alignment within Africa and an understanding of the positive role that the OAU can play in African affairs. While white-dominated African countries supported Biafra, the OAU sided with the federation by voting for unity. The OAU position has proved useful for Nigerian diplomacy. Nigeria initially turned to the Soviet Union for support after the West refused to provide weapons to the federation, and a less pro-Western position was maintained after the war. At the same time, Africa remains Nigeria's top priority. In the mid-to-late 1970s, the focus was on the liberation of southern Africa, the integration of ECOWAS and the need for full economic independence throughout Africa. These goals were included in the 1979 Constitution: promoting the unity of Africa; The political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa; International cooperation; and the elimination of racial discrimination. Nigeria has cordial relations with all its neighbours - Benin, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea - as well as with other countries in the West African subregion, with most of which it has bilateral agreements. There have been occasional border disputes with Chad and Cameroon, and the civilian authorities considered military action against those neighbours in 1982 and 1983. Another problem arose in the early 1980s, when Nigeria decided to expel many illegal immigrants, mainly Ghanaians, but the dispute was also resolved peacefully. The guiding principle of Nigeria's regional foreign policy is good neighbourliness and friendship. In this spirit, it has contributed to the resolution of conflicts between Liberia and Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as Togo and Ghana. Nigeria tried to make their neighbors safe friends, partly to strengthen the boundaries of claims and human rights of Nigerian citizens who were migrants and partly to stabilize relations between the nearest neighbouring countries. For example, it has had a strong presence in Equatorial Guinea since 1988. To realize economic interests through international relations in West Africa, Nigeria advocated the formation of ECOWAS and, despite competing links with competing organizations in the subcontinent, continued to support the organization's objectives. The strengthening of ECOWAS has strengthened Nigeria's national interests by promoting the development of the region's economy and curbing the dependence of its neighbours on the non-African country for military, political and economic survival, thereby serving security interests such as the easing of colonial divisions in West Africa, the end of border disputes, the promotion of African unity and the strengthening of West Africa's negotiating position towards the ECE. The prevailing view in Nigeria's foreign policy with the rest of Africa is that, as the dominant African leader, it should play a major role in relations with African States. Nigeria is a founding member of the OAU and often directs major political initiatives through the organization. Most of its relations with other African States were outside the OAU, but were guided by OAU principles. Nigeria's main commitment to Africa is to liberate the continent from the last vestiges of colonialism and to eradicate apartheid in southern Africa. Promoting liberation grew from a weak and conservative position in the 1960s to an increasingly solid push after the civil war. This commitment continued most actively after Murtala Muhammad successfully supported the ascent of the Mourimento People's De Libert-of-the-Angola to power in Angola in 1975 by securing wavering votes in the OAU's decision to recognize the MLA. Nigeria played a role in the independence of zimbabwe and in the late 1980s actively helped Namibia achieve Namibia's independence. In the latter case, it had allocated some \$20 million to assist the People's Organization in the 1989 elections and in other preparations for Namibia's independence. In addition, the country has made financial contributions to the liberation movements in southern Africa and on the front lines in zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique and zimbabwe, which have been persecuted by southern Africa. Although Nigeria's armed forces were among the largest in black Africa in the early 1990s, considerable military power was rarely used in foreign policy. The army participated in the peacekeeping force, either alone or through the OAU, and contributed to United Nations peacekeeping missions. In accordance with its ECOWAS unit, Nigeria was a major donor to the troops in the ECOWAS (ECOMOG) ceasefire in Liberia on 23 August 1990 peace talks there have failed. Additional forces were dispatched at the end of September 1990 under the leadership of the Nigerian field commander, General Doganyaro. Threats to the liberation of southern Africa were made but did not work, but Nigeria provided military and financial assistance to the African National Congress for its efforts to combat the apartheid regime in southern Africa and provided military equipment to Mozambique to help its fight against South African guerrillas. In addition, Nigeria provides assistance and technical assistance to several African States, often through the African Development Bank, of which it is a major benefactor. In 1987, the United States Peace Corps was established. It employs young Nigerian professionals in other African, Caribbean and Pacific countries where their experience is required. Nigeria also provided African countries with scholarships and scholarships, educational institutions, grants, equipment and medicines, as well as subsidized oil during the oil crisis of the 1970s for African countries under certain conditions. In July 1974, the Govon Government decided to sell crude oil at preferential rates to African countries on the condition that they had their own refineries and would not re-export it to third countries. The decision came despite Nigeria's role as a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a whole in favour of price increases and after more than two years of discussions. Nigeria acted mainly in response to external pressures: international actors tried to divide third world countries into opec members and non-low producers: various African countries, particularly Liberia, have requested less expensive oil; and both the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries had established programmes to help poor countries, while encouraging other oil producers, especially African countries, to follow suit. Subsidies to African countries are a safe step for Nigeria, since Africa accounts for only a small part of the country's total oil export market, it strengthens Nigeria's position and influence in Africa while increasing African solidarity and protects security interests by preventing economic decline. In addition, this example of generosity has contributed to Nigeria's efforts to establish ECOWAS. In November 1990, Babangida suggested that Nigeria might once again offer preferential prices to other African countries as the Middle East crisis pushed oil prices up. Relations with major powers during the Gulf crisis, which began with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in the summer of 1990 and marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a coalition, Nigeria held on to it did not send troops to participate in the Gulf War, but continued to actively participate in UN policy. Buying the bulk of Nigeria's crude oil, the United States the most important trading partner. Before the civil war, Nigeria had no significant relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Since then, ties with the Soviet Union have increased, although they have remained minimal compared to ties with the West. Nigeria's other major trading partners are Japan and the ECE, from which it continues to receive loans and assistance. Although Nigeria has always leaned towards the West, the closeness of relations varied. Nigeria's western ties were initially strongest with Britain, its former colonial ruler. The special relationship that lasted until the 1966 coup led Nigeria to the UK's side on most issues. After the coup and the civil war, the new Nigerian leaders were less supportive of Britain, especially after Britain took a position of neutrality in the civil war, refused to sell arms to the federation and ignored the Biafra blockade. Nigerian leaders have also been impressed by Britain's support for white-dominated governments in southern Africa. Several Nigerian groups have pressured the new government to loosen ties with the UK as the only way to genuine independence. At times, Nigerian-British relations have suffered more verbal and symbolic damage to Nigerian-British consumption than was true in reality. Throughout the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union were interested in Nigeria because of its size, population, economic and military capabilities, and especially for the United States, its oil. From 1966 to 1977, Nigeria was very cool with the United States. Both countries have taken opposing positions on the liberation of southern Africa. Nigerians were outraged by the propaganda of the pro-War in the United States and America's refusal to sell arms to the federation during the civil war. Nigeria even suspected the United States of involvement in the murder of Murtala Muhammad. Jimmy Carter became president in 1977, and Nigeria's relationship with the United States suddenly changed. The United States has recognized Nigeria as a stabilizing force in Africa and is ready to consult with Nigeria on African issues. The two Governments appear to have similar interests in southern Africa. However, the special relationship had a weak footing, mainly depending on the continuing agreement and cooperation on southern Africa. After Ronald Reagan succeeded Carter as president (1981-88), the countries again had different interests in southern Africa. Just as the trade balance is not expected to change dramatically with the opening of Eastern Europe, Nigeria's political position is also not expected to change significantly. At a time when world coalitions were changing, the position of non-alignment with those leaning towards the West provided more opportunities than ever. Events in southern Africa, including namibia's independence and the opening of discussions on the end of apartheid in The South the biggest impediments to closer relations with the United States, not excluding the Soviet Union or other major powers. Relations with Nigeria's international organizations have played an active role in and advocated positions in various international organizations. For example, Joseph Garba, Nigeria's former permanent representative to the United Nations, was elected in 1989 for one year as President of the UN General Assembly; Adebayo Adeji was the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, a UN affiliate; and Emeka Anyakuu became Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations in 1989. The former military head of state, Obasanjo, has also become a recognized world statesman and spokesman for African affairs. Nigeria provided personnel for many UN peacekeeping missions, including operations in Congo, Tanzania and the Indian-Pakistan UN Observer Mission in the 1960s, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in 1978 and the UN forces complying with the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and the Angolan Agreements in 1988. The importance that Nigeria places on international organizations has grown out of a desire for peace and international cooperation. As for the OAU and ECOWAS, these organizations have also served to enhance the unity of African countries, another important Nigerian objective. Nigeria plays an initiation role in the establishment of both organizations and is active in both organizations. Although Nigeria's position on various issues has changed over the years, its activity in international organizations has increased. In 1987, Nigeria initiated the Mid-Power Concert, better known as the Lagos Forum, to promote multilateral cooperation and enable Member States to exert greater collective influence on world affairs. The Forum includes Sweden, Austria, Egypt and zimbabwe. This initiative, which could be seen as an attempt to end the cold war, appears to have collapsed after its initiator, Boledji Akenimi, was removed from the post of Foreign Minister in 1987. Learn more about the Nigerian government. Source: Library of Congress

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