

Struggle for Power Rages in Nigeria

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who are members of the Ibo tribe of the Eastern Region—and other officers who were not in on the weekend coup d'état and whose loyalties are considered suspect.

All evidence today supported the prevailing view here that the original conspirators have the upper hand.

Colonel Banjo was not in this inside group. His assassination attempt was seen as probably motivated by personal revenge for the killing of several top Yoruba officers over the weekend.

Among Yorubas reported slain were a Colonel Shodeinde and Brig. Samuel Adémulegun.

Fears deepened here today about the safety of the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who was kidnapped by officers of the Federal guard the day of the coup.

Chief Festus Okite-Eboh, Prime Minister Balewa's Finance Minister and next-door neighbor, was spirited away at the same time. His body has been dug up from a shallow grave near Abeokuta, about 25 miles north of Lagos.

Buried in a row beside him were the bullet-ridden bodies of four army officers.

Continuing calm was reported today in all four regions of the country. In Ibadan, the Western capital, the army governor issued a strict edict against the looting and burning of the houses of followers of the discredited Premier, S. L. Akintola, who was killed by the army Saturday.

Last night, several attempts at looting were prevented by army patrols, which opened fire. These actions seemed to have a pronounced settling effect, and the city was placid last night for the first time in many weeks.

Here in the Federal capital, the powerful Northern Peoples Congress of Prime Minister Balewa held a news conference under the leadership of former Transport Minister Zanna Bukar Dipcharima, who pledged loyalty to the military regime.

The congress, which dominated the Federal Government, was the last political movement to swing behind General Aguiyi-Ironsi. "It's better to survive," Mr. Dipcharima declared.

Students of the University of Lagos paraded through the streets with a coffin and a

banner proclaiming, "Tyranny Has Died."

Labor unions and youth groups also backed the coup.

The West African Pilot summed up editorial reaction when it declared:

"This great country has every reason to be proud of the military which has taken over the fumbling feudal and neo-colonialist regime. Today independence, which is said to have been granted by the British five years ago, is really won.

Alhaji Adegbenro, the acting leader of the Opposition Action Group in the Western Region, hailed General Aguiyi-Ironsi as a national savior. Mr. Adegbenro called on all party supporters to stop the rioting and killing in the West.

It was the crisis in the Western Region that led to Saturday's coup. After Chief Akintola was returned to power in fraudulent elections in October, members of the Opposition Action Group began a campaign of violence and terrorism in protest.

The nation was split over the disturbances in the Western Region supporting Chief Akintola and the Eastern and Midwestern Regions behind the Opposition.

The situation served to arouse the young army officers from the Eastern Region against the politicians, whom they saw as corrupt and incompetent. When their plot for a coup became known to Chief Akintola and Sir Ahmadu Bello, Premier of the Northern Region, the conspirators decided to strike. Sir Ahmadu as well as Chief Akintola was killed.

Since independence in October 1960, Nigeria has been considered a stable, democratic country. However, it has been troubled from the beginning by the differences and jealousies among its various regions. There are about 250 tribal and linguistic groups in Nigeria.

Ghanaian Aid Reported

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. Jan. 18—The Ghanaian Government was reported today to have provided financial support and political encouragement to dissident elements in Nigeria before last Saturday's military coup.

Prime Minister Balewa took a highly placed Western politician last month that he knew President Kwame Nkrumah's Government was sending funds to anti-Government politicians

and had encouraged the bands of toughs that have terrorized wide areas of Nigeria since the elections last October.

African sources said President Nkrumah, an energetic advocate of pan-Africanism, has long resented Nigeria's refusal to fall in with his plans for uniting black African countries and has envied that country's comparative wealth and stability.

Ghana's President has recently been highly critical of Nigeria's moderate approach to the issue raised by the establishment of the rebellious white government in Rhodesia. Ghana was the first African country to recognize the military Government established in Nigeria by General Aguiyi-Ironsi.

Nigerian diplomats refused to comment on reports that Ghana had supported Opposition elements in Nigeria. Ghana's mission to the United Nations also had no comment on the report.

Experts on African affairs expressed doubt whether the outcome of the coup would be what President Nkrumah had expected. They regarded the military government of General Aguiyi-Ironsi as less amenable to Ghana's influence than a hastily organized political regime.