

DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
April 21, 2005

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY KISSINGER

"Americans for Biafran Relief" is a broad-based bipartisan group with members ranging from Lukens and Fulton Lewis III to Congressmen Edward Koch and Richard Ottinger. They placed a full-page ad in the July 10th issue of the New York Times, the essence of which appears below:

The Biafra war has claimed more children than soldiers. President Nixon is already trying to end one war. Asking that he do something about another may be asking the impossible. But he is the President of the most powerful country in the world and thus is the only man there is to turn to.

After reading this account in his daily news summary, the President directed these comments to you:

"Henry, I agree with this. Moreover, I have decided that I (not State) should try to do something to conciliate the situation. Haile Selassie agrees. Please give me a plan."

  
ALEXANDER F. BUTTERFIELD