

Nigerian delegation press conference (left to right): Chief Odumegwu-Ojukwu, Chief Tony Anenih, Senator Sharif Ali, and Abedayo Oladimeji, president of the Nigerian Patriots.

Leaders from different parts of the political spectrum— Chief Anenih (top) and Chief Ojukwu (bottom)—are united for a peaceful transition to civilian

Schiller Institute Sponsors Nigerian Delegation to U.S.

On October 20, a delegation of Nigerian Patriots hosted by the Schiller Institute gave a press conference at the Embassy Row Hotel in Washington, D.C., to expose those international political forces interested in destroying this key African nation.

The delegation, led by two men from different parts of the political spectrum—Chief Tony Anenih, chairman of Nigeria's Social Democratic Party, and Chief Odemegwu-Ojukwu, former President of the Republic of Biafra—united in support of the peaceful transition from military rule to a civilian-led federal government, as proposed by the Nigerian Constitutional Conference; and in opposition to the destabilization of Nigeria, through economic boycott and political manipulation.

Chief Tony Anenih, who led the delegation with Chief Ojukwu, had been a strong supporter of Moshood Abiola before Abiola began his operation to provoke civil strife in the country. Abiola would be released from prison, Anenih explained, if he were to desist from open provocations, but he refuses. "I believe in peaceful coexistence,"

Anenih said. "I would have been happy to see my candidate as president. But we shouldn't go to war because of that."

Chief Ojukwu also warned how outside forces were manipulating the domestic situation to destroy Nigeria. "We are aware that in Europe there is a very strong move for recolonization," Ojukwu said. "You will find the leader of that movement in the complex of Royal Dutch Shell. These are the people who want to keep Africa as a safari resort," he went on. "The name of the game is destabilization. Nigeria represents the pole around which an alternative can be organized in Africa. Those who wish to maintain a unipolar world where their rule is supreme, see the existence of Nigeria as a danger."

Another member of the delegation, Senator Sharif Ali, attacked the role of the I.M.F. in Africa. "The I.M.F. and the World Bank do not benefit any African country," Sharif said. "And if you go against any of their policies, believe me, you will be on the receiving end" of their wrath. "If we adopted the I.M.F. policies, we would be the 'darling' of the I.M.F. and the World Bank,



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even if we had appointed a dictator for life as head of state," Sharif explained, to everyone's amusement.

In the same vein, Chief Anenih noted that Nigeria produces millions of barrels of oil. "The money goes largely to the servicing of the debt. But the more you pay, the more you have to pay."