



Kopie für Handelsabteilung

(ad Fa.Nig.877.3)

27th October, 1965.

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Y/Ref: ADC.528/1/427

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Regional Headquarters

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Overseas goodwill tour
by Western Nigeria farmers

Dear Sir,

I thank you very much for your letter of the 19th October, 1965 and have noted with satisfaction that you consider the tour of the above mission to Switzerland a success although the notice given to us was too short.

As a matter of fact my authorities were not entirely happy about the way this visit to Switzerland had to be improvised. The arrival of the mission in my country was postponed various times. This made continuous changes in the programme necessary. When the delegation finally arrived in Geneva unexpectedly, nobody was there to receive its members.

To enable the authorities to prepare a definite programme, it is absolutely essential to know the date and the place of arrival in Switzerland but also the exact hour and the number of the flight. Only then can the visitors expect to be received in due form. This will also give the organizers of the tour the possibility to know whether visits or meetings could take place on the same day. Authorities, bankers and industrialists of my country are always happy to receive Nigerian delegations provided they are informed in time. If, however, there are continuous changes even in the date of the arrival, they very often are not in a position any more to postpone previous appointments in view to receive the mission.

One of the main reasons of such contacts abroad must be the creation of goodwill for your country and I have no doubt that generally speaking the last delegation succeeded



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in this endeavour in my country. You must however realise that some of the very busy personalities might not appreciate it particularly if they have to change their own important engagements owing to one or various delays in the arrival of such missions and this again might make their "goodwill-task" more difficult.

Furthermore, it is absolutely essential that the exact wishes of the Government about the persons and organisations the mission intends to meet in Switzerland are being made known to the Embassy well ahead of time.

Finally, I must inform you that the formal request of the Ministry of External Affairs as announced in your communication of September 1st was never received.

I hope you will appreciate that the above comments are not at all meant to discourage you. On the contrary, their only purpose is to try to make the Nigerian visits to Switzerland as successful as possible in the common interest of our two countries.

Yours faithfully,

E. Bucher

(Swiss Ambassador)