

enable us to maintain the cleanliness that the town deserves.

EIR: You brought up the question of sanitation. Following up on that theme: What other major infrastructure improvements would you like to see in the Cross River state? We're talking about roads, electricity, clean water. Could you tell us some of your plans and how you see that development occurring?

Agbonemi: Cross River state is a somewhat old state; you've heard of the city of Calabar. It's a city that was important historically, but now much of its glory is gone. It is my intention to revive the glory of the entire state. The inhabitants are very eager to regain the lost glory of the state. Everyone has realized that the best way to do that is through economic viability.

In terms of attitude of the people, it is quite good. However, we need to assist the people to develop themselves.

There are other areas of economic concern within the state. There is a cement factory here. The production there is not the best. Again, that needs resuscitation; we are trying to put plans in place to get some assistance and get the cement factory going the way it should go. It has been a very creative business in Nigeria, the cement business.

There are other economic ventures in Cross River state, such as a plant where we produce and export rubber. And then we have the palm oil estates. My intention is to try and raise the level of production in those areas, and thereby raise the standard of living of every person within the state. In a nutshell, the main problem is economic. And I keep coming back to this, to raise the economic viability of the state, and consequently thereby raise the standard of living of each person within Cross River state.

EIR: You are a military administrator of this state; are you looking forward to returning the state to civilian rule and moving on with your military career at some point?

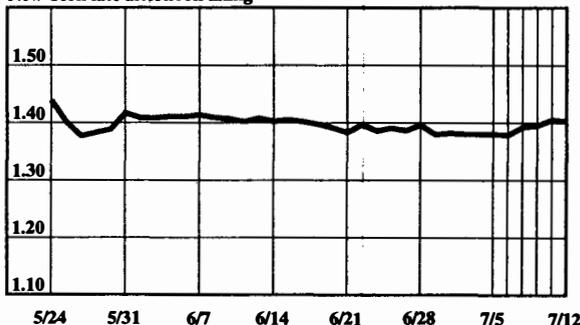
Agbonemi: I would say "yes." I'm prepared, even right now, to move on to my military assignment. All we are waiting for is for the Constitutional Conference to conclude; tell us the conclusions about that, and we will implement them immediately and return to barracks. We moved in to prevent the disintegration of the nation. Not because we wanted to rule; no, that is not our interest.

I'm saying that because there are some people who say: "Oh, the head of state wants to head Nigeria." But they have forgotten that, if General Abacha had wanted to head this nation, he could have done it a long time ago. He had several opportunities to do it. But he didn't. He was head of the Army. He controlled everything; he didn't take over. He was minister for defense; he had every opportunity to take over, but he didn't. He moved in because people were begging. It is no secret; this is documented. People were virtually begging the military to come in and save the situation.

Currency Rates

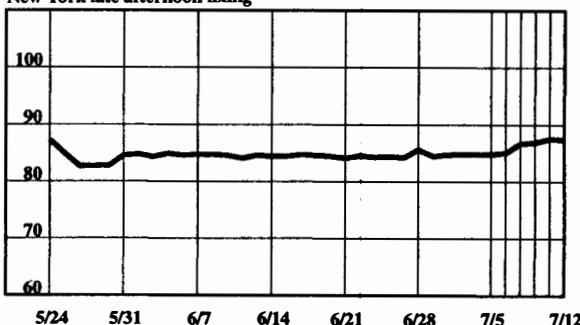
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



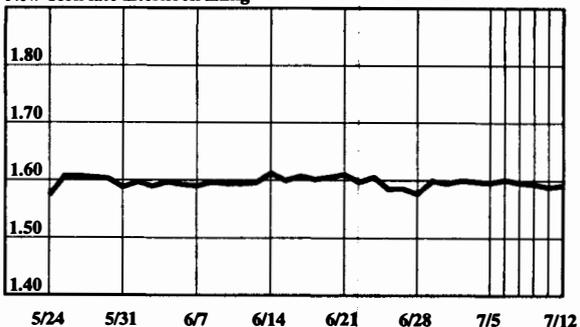
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

