

Congratulatory messages from the British Government to the Nigerian Prime Minister (30 September 1960)

Caption: On 30 September 1960, on the eve of the proclamation of Nigeria's independence on 1 October 1960, the United Kingdom sends its congratulations to the Nigerian Prime Minister Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

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Mr. Goughill

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00.30 HOURS B.S.T. ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 1960.
SIMULTANEOUS PUBLICATION IN LAGOS HAS BEEN ARRANGED.

Independence Day Messages to Federation of Nigeria

Following are the texts of messages which have been sent to the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria (Alhaji Sir Abubakar Balewa);

From the Prime Minister (Mr. Harold Macmillan):

"I am delighted to send you by the hand of my Colleague and Friend, the Lord Chancellor, the Leader of the United Kingdom Delegation, this message of friendship and goodwill from the Government and people of the United Kingdom.

On this historic day, the Federation of Nigeria achieves her Independence and we are glad to rejoice with her. It marks the fulfilment of what our Governments have worked for together over the past years and we wish you well in your future. It is a source of pride to us in the United Kingdom to be able, by your own decision, to welcome your great and growing country as a Member of the Commonwealth, and I look forward with confidence to the continuance of the happy relations which subsist between us.

I send to you cordial greetings from myself and my colleagues and our most sincere wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of your country.

(SGD) Harold Macmillan"

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Iain Macleod):

"On the day of Nigeria's Independence it gives me great pleasure to send to you and all the people of Nigeria this message of good wishes from myself personally and from the staff of the Colonial Office. I am happy that independence should have come during my tenure of office as Secretary of State but I know that my predecessors who see their policy fulfilled today join with me in wishing Nigeria all success in the days ahead.

Although my official association with Nigeria is at an end I shall continue to take a lively personal interest in the affairs of your country and with all her many friends here look forward confidently to a bright and happy future to crown the work we have done together in the past."

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From the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations (Mr. Duncan Sandys):

"I am very happy as Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations to be able to send you today my warm congratulations on Nigeria's achievement of Independence.

She now takes her place as a free and equal partner, not only in world affairs, but also in the Commonwealth. This marks a further milestone in the growing development of our world-wide society of free nations. The Commonwealth will I am sure draw fresh strength and influence from the accession of Nigeria to its councils.

I look forward to the pleasant duty of working closely with you and your colleagues, and hope before long to be able to visit your great country myself".

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
ADMIRALTY HOUSE, S.W.1.

September 30, 1960