

Declaration on the end of the rebellious action

Bearing in mind that the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa, held at Ouagadougou from 4 to 6 December 1996, decided to send to Bangui a mediation mission consisting of Their Excellencies El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, Mr. Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, Mr. Idriss Deby of Chad and Mr. Alpha-Oumar Konaré of Mali;

Bearing in mind that, in the wake of this mission, the International Monitoring Committee was established to implement the measures contained in the final communiqué of 8 December 1996 and to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Central African crisis, and noting the encouraging results achieved;

Bearing in mind the address of the President of the Republic on 31 December 1996 announcing a number of measures to relax tension and issuing an appeal to rally the nation;

Concerned about strengthening the democratic process and the rule of law and about ensuring respect for human rights, safeguarding Central African democratic gains and preserving peace and national unity;

Taking into account the recommendations adopted by the General Meeting on National Defence on 9 September 1996 in Bangui;

Taking into account the general report and recommendations adopted by the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue on 18 January 1997 in Bangui;

Taking into account the Declaration prior to the agreement to end the rebellion adopted on 24 January 1997 in Bangui;

Determined, in the best interests of the Central African nation and the African continent, to employ dialogue and concerted efforts as the means to avert any return to armed confrontation;

We declare as follows:

1. We take note of the conclusions of the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, meeting from 11 to 18 January 1997 in Bangui, and we undertake to respect the provisions that concern us.
2. Pending the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, the purpose of which is to strengthen the current democratic process in our country, we affirm that the rebellious action triggered on 15 November 1996 is ended as from today.
3. We request a halt to all forms of constraint on collective and individual freedoms, including searches of persons and of premises and arrests.

4. We request the release of all persons apprehended in the course of the rebellious action.

5. We request that a monument to the memory of civilian and military victims of the three rebellions be built in Bangui.

6. We request that the International Monitoring Committee be maintained in order to ensure full compliance with the recommendations resulting from the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue and the Declaration prior to the agreement to end the rebellion adopted on 24 January 1997 in Bangui.

7. We request all the parties to settle all future differences and disagreements by some means other than the use of weapons.

8. We urge the public authorities to take into account the safeguards enumerated in the Declaration prior to the agreement to end the rebellion.

The present Declaration is being drawn up with the International Monitoring Committee as witness, under the auspices of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, head of the delegation of heads of State designated by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of France and Africa.

Done at Bangui, on 25 January 1997.

For the International Monitoring
Committee:
(Signed) Amadou Toumani TOURE
Chairman

For the Officers:
(Signed) Anicet SAULET
Captain