

Declaration issued by heads of State

We,

His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, representing the heads of State designated by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa to help find a solution to the Central African crisis, and

His Excellency Mr. Ange-Félix Patasse, President of the Central African Republic,

Meeting in Bangui today, 25 January 1997, and, with reference to the mandate entrusted to the International Monitoring Committee, having taken note with appreciation of the various reports on the work of the Committee, which is chaired by Army General Amadou Toumani Touré, former head of State of Mali,

Take note of the Preliminary Agreement on a National Reconciliation Pact, which is the outcome of a broad consultation of those representing the vital forces of the Central African nation, thereby embodying the solemn commitment of the political parties, the trade union federations and the civil society to respect the constitutional legal order and to lend full support to all initiatives to promote dialogue and national reconciliation;

Take note further of the cessation of the rebellious action involving some Army elements, which have agreed to place themselves at the disposal of the authorities of the Central African Army and to settle all future differences and disagreements by some means other than the use of weapons;

Commend the International Monitoring Committee for the successful performance of its task;

Commend the Central African people for the courage, wisdom and patriotism displayed throughout this crisis;

Undertake to pursue our efforts to restore and strengthen peace in the Central African Republic by maintaining the International Monitoring Committee and by helping to set up as promptly as possible the inter-African force to monitor security and peace.

Thank the United Nations for the assistance provided through the United Nations Development Programme to the International Monitoring Committee and

invite it to continue such assistance until a lasting peace returns to the Central African Republic.

Done at Bangui, on 25 January 1997.

Signatories

For the delegation of heads of African States:

(Signed) His Excellency El Hadj Omar BONGO

For the Central African Republic:

(Signed) His Excellency Mr. Félix-Ange PATASSE

For the French Republic:

(Signed) His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc SIMON
Ambassador and Senior Representative