LA MARTINIERE MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2026

BACKGROUND GUIDE



LIBERATION COUNCIL OF BIAFRA

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Liberation Council of Biafra at La Martiniere Model United Nations 2026, the Thirteenth Session. Thank you for choosing this committee.
We read the comments under our Instagram announcement, so let us settle a few things early. This is not a niche Nigerian committee. It is a crisis that nearly broke apart the most populous country in Africa, and it is underrated. And nobody in this room wins through the power of friendship alone. You will need directives, quick thinking and a little mischief.

It is the night of 29 May 1967 in Enugu, capital of Nigeria's Eastern Region. Two days ago the region's leaders gave the Military Governor a mandate to declare an independent republic. The same day, the Federal Military Government in Lagos declared a state of emergency and split the Eastern Region into three. Behind this sit a year of two military coups, a peace agreement both sides read differently, and the killing of thousands of Easterners in the North, which sent hundreds of thousands of people (some estimates say over a million) fleeing home to a region that now has to house, feed and protect them. Nobody in Enugu knows what tomorrow looks like. Officially, neither do you.

One thing, honestly. This is not a fantasy war game. The people on your matrix were real, their families are alive today, and the questions this council faces are still argued over in Nigeria: who belongs to a nation, what a government owes people it could not protect, and whether a people may leave. Argue with conviction and research with care. Playing a hard-line character is not the same as being hateful, and the Board will not accept ethnic slurs or stereotypes about any community, in character or out of it. You can be ruthless in strategy without being careless with people.

This is a crisis committee, so the situation will move fast. Treat this guide as a starting point, and your portfolio as a person with fears, a hometown and a family, not just a rank. Talk to each other, especially to delegates you disagree with. If this is your first MUN, nervous speeches, forgotten points and long pauses are completely normal. Almost everyone on an Executive Board was once the delegate who forgot their opening line.
Warm regards, The Executive Board,

Devesh Anand Srivastava
Vinayak Tandon
biafra.lmun26@gmail.com

Letter from the Executive Board

How to use this guide:

Read first (15 minutes) : The Story in Two Minutes, About the Council, and your own portfolio.

Read next: How We Got Here, and What the Council Is Dealing With. Keep beside you: the Timeline, the Glossary and the chit templates.

A note on the subject: this committee deals with real ethnic violence and a crisis people in Nigeria still argue about. If anything makes you uncomfortable, tell the Board. That is what Points of Personal Privilege and chits are for.



The Story in Two Minutes

If you read only one page, read this one.

1. One country, three big regions. The British joined northern and southern Nigeria into one colony in 1914. It became independent in 1960 as a federation of three regions, each led by one large group: the North (Hausa-Fulani), the West (Yoruba) and the East (Igbo). The North had over half the population, so it could win most votes in parliament.
2. January 1966: the first coup. Army officers, mostly Igbo, killed the Prime Minister and other leaders, mostly Northern and Western. General Ironsi, also Igbo, took over. Many Northerners saw an Igbo plot.
3. July 1966: the counter-coup. Northern soldiers killed Ironsi. Lt. Col. Yakubu Gowon became leader. Eastern soldiers were hunted down in barracks across the country.
4. Autumn 1966: the massacres. Mobs and soldiers killed thousands of Easterners living in the North. Hundreds of thousands fled home. Lt. Col. Ojukwu, Military Governor of the East, refused to accept Gowon as leader.
5. January 1967: Aburi. The military leaders met in Ghana and agreed to give the regions more power. Back home each side said the other had broken the deal.
6. Spring 1967: economic war. The East kept federal revenues and took over federal corporations in its territory. Lagos hit back with economic measures.
7. 26 to 27 May 1967: the mandate and the split. The East's assembly told Ojukwu to declare independence. The same day Gowon declared an emergency and cut the East into three states, leaving the Igbo heartland with no coast and no oil.

Now it is 29 May. What does the Council do?

About the Council

The Liberation Council of Biafra is a simulated body. No council of exactly this name sat in Enugu on 29 May 1967. We have gathered into one room the soldiers, civil servants, economists, diplomats, scientists and writers who would carry the weight of the Eastern Region's decisions in the months that followed. On the freeze date the East is still officially Nigeria's Eastern Region. "Biafra" is a name this Council may or may not choose.

Agendum
Securing independence from the Federal Republic of Nigeria and protecting the Igbo people from ethnic oppression and pogroms.

Notice that the agenda names the Igbo. But roughly a third of the region's people belong to other communities (Ibibio, Efik, Annang, Ijaw, Ogoni and more), and several sit at the top of this matrix. Many did not ask to be part of an Igbo cause, and Lagos has just offered them states of their own. How the Council protects the Igbo and also wins the loyalty and safety of everyone else is one of the central tests of this committee.

Delegate authority
Every delegate holds the title and competence given in the matrix, and the Executive Board treats that title as your area of competence. A Director of Signals and Cipher may direct signals and cipher. They may not negotiate an arms deal with a European government because they were feeling ambitious, unless they give the Board a very strong justification and sources.

The freeze date and the hindsight rule
The freeze date is 29 May 1967. Nothing after this date has happened yet. You do not know how the next three years unfold, who will stay loyal, or how anyone's memoir ends. Arguments built on foresight will be ruled out of order. Portfolio descriptions here leave out what each person did afterwards. The committee's timeline will drift away from history the moment you pass your first directive.

How the East is governed
Until January 1966 the East had an elected assembly and a Premier (Dr. Michael Okpara), under a Governor (Dr. Francis Akanu Ibiam). Since the first coup it has been run by a Military Governor, Lt. Col. Ojukwu, who rules by edict. He leans on the Consultative Assembly and the Advisory Committee of Chiefs and Elders to legitimise big decisions (they gave him the 27 May mandate), on the Chief Secretary and the civil service (swollen by officials who fled the North and Lagos), on statutory bodies such as the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board and the federal corporations seized this spring, on a small army of regrouped Eastern soldiers and new recruits, and on the police.

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

1. Before the storm, 1914 to 1965

In 1914 the British joined the Northern and Southern Protectorates into one colony. In the North they ruled largely through the emirs, and Western schooling spread slowly. In the South mission schools spread fast, so by independence many Southerners, including many Igbo, held jobs in the civil service, the professions, business and the officer corps, including in the North, where they were often resented.

The 1950s constitutions built a federation of three regions, each dominated by one large group and one party: the North (Hausa-Fulani, and Sir Ahmadu Bello's NPC), the West (Yoruba, and Chief Obafemi Awolowo's Action Group) and the East (Igbo, and Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe's NCNC). Each region also held minorities who feared domination, but a 1958 commission created no new states. The North had over half of Nigeria's people, a built-in majority in parliament.

Independence came on 1 October 1960, with the NPC's Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as Prime Minister and Azikiwe as Governor-General, then ceremonial President from 1963. Then came shocks: Awolowo jailed for treason after a crisis in the West (1962 to 1963); a Mid-Western Region carved from the West (1963), home to Edo, Urhobo, Itsekiri, Ijaw and Western Igbo communities (several portfolios come from there); a disputed census, because seats followed population; a boycotted election (December 1964); and a rigged, violent Western election (October 1965). By the end of 1965 many Nigerians, soldiers included, thought the politicians corrupt and elections meaningless. That is the soil the first coup grew in.

2. The coups of 1966

15 January. Young army majors struck in Lagos, Kaduna and Ibadan. Most, including Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu and Major Emmanuel Ifeajuna, were Igbo. They killed Prime Minister Balewa, the Premiers of the North (Sir Ahmadu Bello) and West (Chief S. L. Akintola), Finance Minister Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh and senior officers, most Northern. They said they were fighting corruption and tribalism. But the pattern mattered more than the speeches: the Premier of the East was not killed, and almost all the senior dead were Northern or Western. In much of the North it looked like an Igbo attempt to seize the country. The coup failed in Lagos, where Major-General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi (himself Igbo) rallied loyal troops, and the cabinet handed him power. He appointed four military governors, including Lt. Col. Ojukwu in the East. The plotters were detained but never tried, which many Northerners read as protection.

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

24 May: Decree No. 34. Ironsi's "Unification Decree" abolished the regions and merged the civil services. In the North, where Southerners already held many of the educated jobs, it looked like an invitation for even more Southerners to take Northern posts. Within days Easterners in Northern cities were attacked and killed.

29 July: the counter-coup. Northern soldiers mutinied. Ironsi and his host, the Military Governor of the West, Lt. Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, were killed at Ibadan, and Eastern soldiers were hunted down in barracks across the country. The mutineers backed the Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Yakubu Gowon, a Christian from a minority community of the Middle Belt. Within weeks he repealed Decree No. 34 and freed Awolowo. Ojukwu refused to recognise him. His argument was seniority and legitimacy: the most senior officer, Brigadier Ogundipe, had been pushed aside by mutiny. (Gowon says he was commissioned before Ojukwu, and the two held the same rank.) Beneath it lay a deeper question: could Easterners ever be safe under a government in Lagos? Since August 1966, Enugu and Lagos have in effect been two governments pretending to be one.

3. The massacres of 1966

The violence against Easterners came in waves: after Decree No. 34, during the July mutiny, and worst from late September 1966, when mobs, in places joined by soldiers, killed Igbo and other Easterners across the North: at Kano airport, in markets, in the Sabon Gari quarters where Southerners lived, and on trains heading south. In early October there were reprisals against Northerners in some Eastern towns, and non-Easterners left the region. Nigeria was sorting itself by region.

Careful with numbers

Nobody agrees on the figures, so quote them as **estimates**. The dead: from several thousand to 30,000 or more, with Eastern sources giving the highest. Those who fled east: from hundreds of thousands to over a million.

For Enugu, the killings turned a political question into one of survival: a federal authority that could not, or would not, stop the killing and punish those responsible had lost the right to govern. For Lagos it was a tragedy but not a reason to dissolve the country. For the Council the problems are practical: shelter and jobs for the returnees, protection for Easterners still elsewhere in Nigeria, and how to tell a world that has barely noticed.

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

4. From Aburi to the mandate

Aburi (4 to 5 January 1967). After a constitutional conference in Lagos collapsed in the wake of the massacres, Ghana's ruler, Lt. Gen. Joseph Ankrah, offered neutral ground. The Supreme Military Council, including Gowon and Ojukwu, met at Aburi near Accra, in a warm mood. On paper the agreements gave the East most of what it wanted: no use of force; the Supreme Military Council to be supreme, with national decisions needing the agreement of all military governors; governors to control army units in their areas; and repeal of decrees that cut regional powers. Aburi is perhaps the only peace conference in history from which both sides went home certain they had won, which is usually a sign that somebody did not read the minutes. Federal civil servants warned Gowon it would make Nigeria a confederation in all but name. Enugu published its own verbatim record, and "On Aburi we stand" became the East's rallying cry.

Decree No. 8 (17 March). Lagos's version of Aburi was approved at a Supreme Military Council meeting in Benin on 10 March that Ojukwu did not attend. It returned much power to the regions. But sections 70 and 71 let the Head of the Federal Military Government, with the agreement of just three of the four military governors, declare a state of emergency in any region and legislate for it. To Enugu this turned Aburi inside out: the region most likely to be outvoted three to one was the East. (Decree No. 8 is a document in which the word "autonomy" appears generously and then, a few sections later, quietly leaves the room.) The East rejected it and set 31 March as the deadline for full implementation of Aburi.

Spring 1967. When the deadline passed the East acted as though Aburi were law. Its Revenue Collection Edict (31 March) sent federal revenues collected in the East to the Eastern treasury, and further edicts took over federal corporations in the East, including the railway and the Enugu coal corporation. Lagos called the edicts illegal and answered with economic measures (sources differ on exact timing). On 1 May, Awolowo told Western leaders in Ibadan: "If the Eastern Region is allowed by acts of omission or commission to secede from or opt out of Nigeria, then the Western Region and Lagos must also stay out of the Federation." The Mid-West does not want to become anybody's battlefield. In May a National Conciliation Committee visited Enugu and recommended both governments withdraw their measures within a week. Gowon said he lifted Lagos's measures from 23 May, but in his broadcast of 27 May he re-imposed them until the East dropped its edicts. Each side accused the other of not following through.

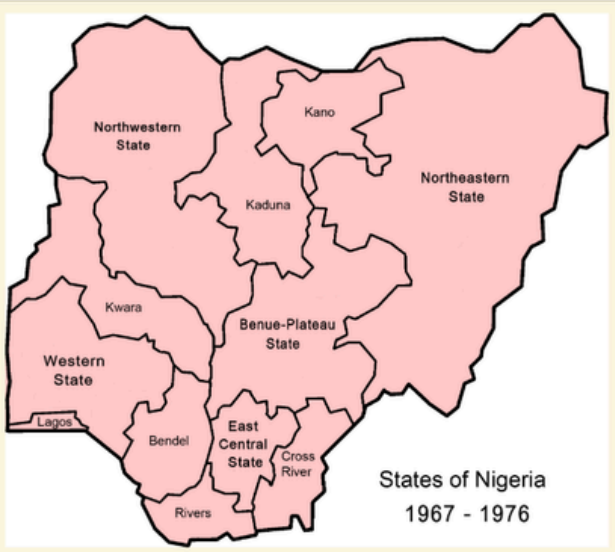
How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

26 to 27 May. The Consultative Assembly and the Chiefs and Elders, meeting jointly in Enugu, mandated the Military Governor to declare the East a free, sovereign and independent state at the earliest practicable date. On 27 May Gowon broadcast to the nation. He declared a state of emergency, assumed full powers, and replaced Nigeria's four regions and Lagos with twelve states. The East was split into three: East Central (the Igbo heartland around Enugu, with no coastline), Rivers (around Port Harcourt) and South-Eastern (around Calabar). Lagos presented this as the answer to minority fears across Nigeria. Enugu saw a decree designed to cut the Igbo off from the sea, the oil and their non-Igbo neighbours, issued without consultation at the very moment the East was deciding its future. Drum roll. That is where the Council opens.

MAPS



Map 1. Nigeria's regions, 1960 to 1963. Source: Wikimedia Commons, File:Nigeria 1960-1963.png.



Map 2. The twelve states created on 27 May 1967. Source: Wikimedia Commons, File:Nigeria states-1967-1976.png.
The twelve states, by origin: North (six): North-Western, North-Central, Kano, North-Eastern, Benue-Plateau, Kwara. West: Western. Lagos: Lagos. Mid-West: Mid-Western. East (three): East Central (Enugu), Rivers (Port Harcourt), South-Eastern (Calabar).

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

The Evening of 29 May 1967

The city has been filling up for days. Members of the Consultative Assembly and the Chiefs and Elders are still in town. Civil servants who came home from Lagos and Kaduna last autumn now staff ministries that no longer answer to Lagos. In the streets and compounds are families who arrived from the North with nothing, and who have spent the year being told that the government that failed to protect them is still their government.

Two days ago Lagos announced that the Eastern Region no longer exists. In its place are three states, drawn by a decree nobody in this room was consulted about. On paper the Igbo heartland has been separated from the sea, from Port Harcourt, from Calabar and from most of the oil. Whether that decree can be enforced depends on what happens next.

What the Council knows: Aburi has failed and Decree No. 8 is rejected. The Military Governor has a mandate to declare a sovereign republic. Lagos has declared an emergency, assumed full powers and re-imposed its economic measures. The West has warned it may leave if the East does. The Mid-West wants no part of a war fought across its territory. Britain, the United States, the OAU and Nigeria's neighbours are watching, and none has said what it will do.

What the Council does not know is everything that matters. Whether Lagos will negotiate or fight. Whether the soldiers in Calabar and Port Harcourt will follow orders from Enugu. Whether the region can feed itself if the ports close. Whether any government will recognise a new state. Whether the people in this room agree about any of it.

The lamps are lit. (The tea is cold. That is a metaphor. We will not be serving tea.) Somewhere in Lagos a staff officer is drafting orders. The floor is yours.

What the Council Is Dealing With

An East that is not only Igbo

About a third of the region's people (a commonly cited estimate) belong to other communities, mostly in the Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers areas: Ibibio, Annang, Efik, Ijaw, Ogoni, Ekoi, Boki and more. Much of the known oil lies under their land and waters, and both main seaports, Port Harcourt and Calabar, sit in their areas. Their relationship with the Igbo-led government is complicated. In the 1950s a movement pushed for a separate Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers (COR) State. In February 1966 a young Ijaw activist, Isaac Adaka Boro, proclaimed a "Niger Delta Republic" and held out about twelve days before being crushed; he was convicted of treason but received an amnesty from Gowon's government in May 1967, so Lagos now has a famous Delta rebel to point to.

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

Minority communities also hold some of the most senior posts on this matrix (Effiong and Akpan are Ibibio, Mbu is from the Ogoja area, Ndem is Efik), and Anuku, Nwawo and Uwechue come from the Mid-West, west of the Niger. They have homes on the other side of any line the Council draws. Gowon's twelve-state decree is aimed squarely at this fault line: it offers the minorities states of their own and gives Lagos an argument that an independent East would hold millions of unwilling people. The Council must earn and keep the loyalty of the whole region, not assume it.

Oil, money and food

On paper the East is one of the best-endowed parts of Nigeria. Oil: Shell-BP struck oil at Oloibiri in 1956, exports began in 1958, and by 1967 production was rising fast, shipped through the Bonny terminal, with a refinery near Port Harcourt (1965). Royalties are collected by the federal government, which passes on a share; which government an oil company pays when two claim the money has not yet been tested. Palm oil and kernels are a major earner of foreign exchange through the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board. Coal from Enugu fuels the railways. The East also has two ports, a railway, the Afam power station, the University of Nigeria at Nsukka, and an unusual concentration of skilled returnees.

The weaknesses: the East has no central bank, which is a bit like owning a car and not the keys. Currency, foreign exchange reserves and banking are all controlled from Lagos. Most trade leaves through two ports that a navy could close. The region is densely populated and relies on outside supplies of protein, including cattle from the North and imported stockfish. And it is supporting hundreds of thousands of returnees. Any directive that assumes the East can simply stop trading with Nigeria and carry on as normal should be read twice.

The military balance

Before 1966 the Nigerian Army had roughly ten thousand men (some sources give lower figures), a tiny navy and an air force barely more than a training unit. The 1966 coups split it along regional lines. Both sides are small and neither is ready for a long war. Exact numbers are uncertain (one commonly cited figure puts the East's trained soldiers near three thousand). The East's real problem is equipment: it is short of rifles, ammunition, heavy weapons, vehicles and aircraft, and has no arms industry. Geography cuts both ways. The River Niger is the western border with the Mid-West, crossed by the bridge between Onitsha and Asaba. To the north the East borders the Northern Region around Nsukka and Ogoja, where Lagos can attack most directly. To the south lie the creeks and ports a federal navy could try to blockade. To the east is Cameroon, and offshore is the Spanish island of Fernando Po.

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

Churches, chiefs, schools and radio

The East is one of the most heavily Christian parts of Africa. Catholic missions (led by Irish Holy Ghost Fathers) built much of the school system, Presbyterian missions of the Church of Scotland work around Calabar, and the former Governor, Dr. Ibiam, is a leader in the World Council of Churches. Every mission is a wire running to Dublin, Edinburgh, Rome, Geneva, London and New York: a fast way to make the world hear about the East, and a fast way for Lagos to decide the churches are working against Nigeria. Authority among the Igbo rests with lineage heads, title societies and village meetings rather than kings, which is why the Chiefs and Elders matter: no government here can rule on edicts alone. The University of Nigeria at Nsukka and the region's schools have produced skilled people far out of proportion to its size, and educated people without work are dangerous to any government. Radio reaches people who cannot read and crosses borders armies cannot. Every broadcast decision is a political decision.

Who Else Is Watching

The Board plays every actor below, and all of them can change their minds. Positions are as of the freeze date.

Actor	Where they stand on 29 May 1967
Lagos	Led by Yakubu Gowon, Head of the Federal Military Government. In ten months he has repealed the unification decree, freed Awolowo, gone to Aburi, issued Decree No. 8 and now created twelve states. He says any attempt to break up Nigeria will be treated as rebellion. He is not a fanatic and not a pushover. Whether he prefers a settlement or a short campaign is the biggest unknown in this committee.
The North	Governed by Lt. Col. Hassan Usman Katsina. It supplies most of the army's soldiers. Its leaders spent 1966 moving from talk of leaving Nigeria to demanding it be held together in new states. Opinion is divided between emirs, officials, young officers and Middle Belt minorities.
The West	Governed by Lt. Col. Robert Adebayo, with Awolowo as the dominant civilian voice. His 1 May warning (if the East leaves, the West and Lagos must also stay out) is the most useful sentence anyone outside the East has said this year. Think about how to keep it useful

How We Got Here (1914 to May 1967)

Actor	Where they stand on 29 May 1967
The Mid-West	Governed by Lt. Col. David Ejoor. A federal army marching on the East from the west must cross it. He wants neutrality and has no obvious means of enforcing it. Many people there have relatives and property across the Niger.
Nigerian armed forces	An army drawn increasingly from the North, a small navy under an officer from Calabar (J. E. A. Wey) and a barely-existing air force. Its officer corps has been gutted twice in a year. It can mass troops on the East's northern border, land on the coast and try to close the ports, but cannot yet fight a long war without help.
Ghana and the OAU	Ankrah hosted Aburi and keeps trying to mediate. The OAU charter (1963) commits members to respect each other's territorial integrity, and in 1964 African leaders pledged to respect inherited borders. Almost every African government has minorities of its own and fears the precedent.
United Kingdom	The former colonial power, with deep commercial interests including Shell-BP. Harold Wilson's government favours a united Nigeria. It is still dealing with Rhodesia's 1965 unilateral declaration of independence, which it refuses to recognise.
United States	Sees Nigeria as a matter for Nigerians, Africa and the Commonwealth. Wants a peaceful settlement and is reluctant to lead. Keeps a consulate in Enugu.
France, USSR, UN, Cameroon	France has close ties with the French-speaking states around Nigeria and the USSR wants influence in Africa; neither has taken a position. The UN spent years ending the Katanga secession in the Congo, with Nigerian troops among its peacekeepers. Cameroon borders the East.

What makes a state?

Under the 1933 Montevideo Convention a state needs a permanent population, a defined territory, a government and the capacity to enter relations with other states. Whether recognition by others is also required, or merely confirms a fact, is a long-running argument. Precedents are mixed: Katanga declared independence and was reabsorbed by force with UN help; Rhodesia declared independence and was recognised by nobody; Singapore separated from Malaysia in 1965 by agreement.

Questions Before the Council

Not a checklist. Use these to build your speeches and documents.

- The declaration. Act on the mandate? When, in what form, under what name? If not, what is the alternative and how long can it last?
- Protection of people. How do you protect Easterners elsewhere in Nigeria, resettle the returnees, and treat non-Easterners in the East?
- The minorities. How do you answer the twelve-state decree and win the genuine loyalty of Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers?
- Defence. How do you recruit, arm and organise forces? Where are you most vulnerable?
- The economy. How does the East pay for a state? What happens to oil, the marketing board, currency and food if Lagos tightens its measures?
- Diplomacy. Whom do you approach first, with what argument, and what will you offer?
- Lagos. Is any negotiation left worth attempting? Through whom, on what terms?
- Unity at home. How do you keep soldiers and civilians, old politicians and young officers, Igbo and non-Igbo pulling together?

Timeline and Glossary

Date	Event
1914	The British join the Northern and Southern Protectorates into one colony.
1 Oct 1960	Independence. Balewa is Prime Minister. Oil exports from the East began in 1958.
1963	Nigeria becomes a republic (Azikiwe President). Mid-Western Region created. Disputed census. Awolowo jailed.
Dec 1964 to Oct 1965	A boycotted federal election, then a rigged and violent Western Region election.
15 Jan 1966	First coup. Balewa, the Northern and Western Premiers and senior officers killed. Ironsi takes over; Ojukwu becomes Military Governor of the East.
24 May 1966	Decree No. 34 abolishes the regions. Anti-Igbo riots in the North.
29 Jul 1966	Counter-coup. Ironsi killed. Gowon becomes leader (1 Aug). Ojukwu refuses to recognise him.
Late Sept to Oct 1966	Worst massacres of Easterners in the North. Hundreds of thousands flee east.
4 to 5 Jan 1967	Aburi meeting in Ghana.
17 Mar 1967	Lagos issues Decree No. 8. The East rejects it and sets a 31 March deadline.
31 Mar to spring 1967	Revenue Collection Edict and other Eastern edicts. Lagos imposes economic measures.
1 May 1967	Awolowo: if the East leaves, the West and Lagos must also stay out.

Timeline and Glossary

Date	Event
May 1967	Boro amnestied. Conciliation Committee visits Enugu. Gowon lifts federal measures from 23 May.
26 to 27 May 1967	Eastern assembly mandates Ojukwu to declare independence. On 27 May Gowon declares an emergency, re-imposes the measures and creates twelve states.
29 May 1967	The Council convenes in Enugu. FREEZE DATE.

Term	Meaning here
Federation / Region	A country where regions keep real powers. Nigeria had three regions, later four.
Decree / Edict	A law issued by the federal military government / by a regional military governor.
Supreme Military Council	The top military leaders who ruled Nigeria: the Head of State plus the regional governors and others.
Pogrom	An organised attack on a particular ethnic or religious community.
Secession	A region formally leaving a country to become independent.
Recognition	Other countries accepting that a new state exists.
Returnees	Easterners who fled home in 1966.

How This Committee Differs

The conference's standard Rules of Procedure apply. These are the changes for this crisis committee.

Language and manner
Be formal. This committee involves real ethnic violence, and the communities connected to it are part of Nigeria today. Speech that insults, stereotypes or demeans any ethnic, religious or regional community (Igbo, Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Ibibio, Efik, Ijaw or any other) will not be tolerated. There is a difference between character theatrics, strong opinions and hate speech. Be as fierce as you like about governments and decisions. Nigerian politics after 1967 has no place here.

Item	What is different
Roll call	Answer "present".
Discussion Forum (speakers' list)	Continuous from roll call. Speeches 60 to 90 seconds. Up to two questions after each, answered verbally. No yields.
Topic-Wise Consultation Session (moderated caucus)	On one sub-topic or a crisis update. Up to 60 seconds per speech, up to two questions, no yields.
Questions	Our name for Points of Information, allowed at the Board's discretion.
Point of Order	Only for a procedural error by the Board. Not for disagreeing with a crisis update.
Chits	Between delegates and to the Board; sign with your portfolio. A deal between delegates becomes real only when written as a communiqué and ratified.
Voting	One vote per portfolio, by placard, no abstentions. Simple majority of members present; a tie fails. The Board does not vote.

Documents and Written Work

Delegates communicate with the Board on chits. The Board accepts only three kinds of document, and reference templates for each are at the end of this guide (the final format will be confirmed on the day of the conference). Write clearly. Keep it short.

Chit	What it is for	Rules
Private Report (covert)	Telling the Board something secret that your portfolio would plausibly learn: intelligence, conditions in your area, news from Lagos or abroad.	Must fall within your portfolio, explain how you got the information, and be plausible. Marked whether or not ratified. If ratified it may become an update, with or without your name.
Public Directive	Official Council action on the agenda or a crisis update.	Presented publicly and must pass a vote. Marked only if passed. Say who does what, with which resources, by when and to what end. Must be realistic for the authority you hold.
Communiqué (covert or overt)	Negotiating with anyone, inside or outside the Council: Lagos, a foreign government, an oil company, a church, a journalist.	State intent, terms offered and terms sought. The Board answers for outsiders (Lagos is not in a good mood). Between delegates, the reply goes on the same chit. Never use one to contact the Board.

Why no private directives? They would guarantee everyone sends the Board a two-liner with two solutions, hoping for extra marks. If a plan needs secrecy, persuade the Council to vote for it in public, or use a private report or covert communiqué. The Board may revisit this in committee only.

Documents and Written Work

Position paper and pre-committee report

- Position paper (optional, strongly encouraged): who your portfolio is, what they want and fear, their stand on the agenda, and what they propose. Two pages maximum including citations, Times New Roman, single-spaced, PDF, emailed to biafra.lmun26@gmail.com with your portfolio marked. Deadline: 28 October, 11:59 PM. Missing it affects only the paper's evaluation.
- Pre-committee private report (one per portfolio): one page, same deadline, on the private report format. It may or may not appear in your timeline. Our crises are driven by what you send us.

How you will be judged

Speeches (delivery and content), lobbying and interaction, and the quality, creativity and depth of your written work. Authority is earned through strategy, sensible use of your portfolio's resources and negotiation. Engage with crises as they happen; they will not resolve themselves. Speak from your own thinking rather than reading a prepared text. Speeches that begin by thanking the Board for this wonderful opportunity are permitted, but will not be admired.

A note on AI

In the interest of full disclosure, the Board used AI to help research, polish and check this guide. AI is fine for research, structuring ideas and checking your work. Do not use it to write your submissions. A document written wholly by AI will be met with censure, and plagiarism is treated the same way. Check anything an AI tells you: it can be confidently wrong about dates, names and decrees.

We want this committee to be fun, fast and a little unhinged, and we will match your energy. Every idea is welcome. Stumbles and stage fright are normal, and first-timers are warmly encouraged. Kudos if your documents arrive on a letterhead with a rising sun. We will not mark for it, but we will be quietly impressed.

P.S. for people who read this far

Congratulations. Put a silent line at the bottom of your pre-committee document reading "I did actually read this". It earns no extra marks, but the Board may look kindly on your first crisis update.

Documents and Written Work

Reading list (read only up to the freeze date for facts)

- Start here: Britannica, "Nigerian Civil War", and the entries on Gowon and Ojukwu. Awolowo's Ibadan speech (1 May 1967). Gowon's twelve-state broadcast (27 May 1967).
- If you want a book: Samuel Fury Childs Daly, *A History of the Republic of Biafra* (2020). Max Siollun, *Oil, Politics and Violence*. N. U. Akpan, *The Struggle for Secession* (by the Eastern Chief Secretary, so one side's account). Frederick Forsyth, *The Biafra Story* (sympathetic to the East).



Chit Templates

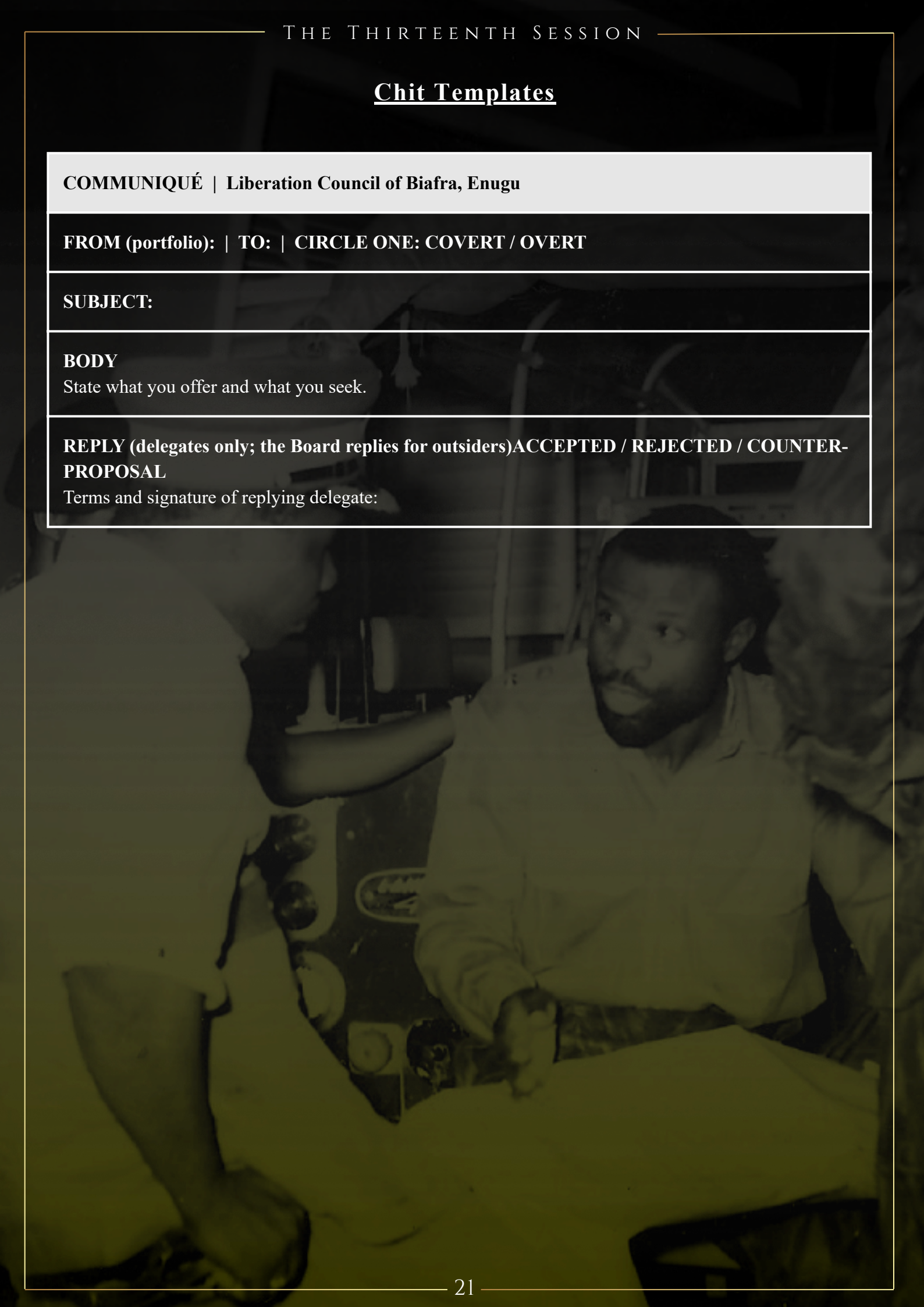
For reference only.
These templates show roughly what a chit looks like. The exact chit format will be discussed and confirmed by the Board on the day of the conference. Chits are handwritten unless the Board says otherwise.

PRIVATE REPORT (covert) | Liberation Council of Biafra, Enugu
FROM (portfolio): | TIME (in committee):
TO: The Executive Board SUBJECT:
CONTENT Say what you learned and how you learned it.

PUBLIC DIRECTIVE No. ____ | Liberation Council of Biafra, Enugu
TITLE:
SPONSOR / SIGNATORIES:
THE COUNCIL DIRECTS THAT Say who does what, with which resources, by when and to what end.
FOR THE BOARD ONLY: VOTE FOR [ ] AGAINST [ ] RESULT: PASSED / FAILED

Chit Templates

COMMUNIQUÉ | Liberation Council of Biafra, Enugu
FROM (portfolio): | TO: | CIRCLE ONE: COVERT / OVERT
SUBJECT:
BODY State what you offer and what you seek.
REPLY (delegates only; the Board replies for outsiders)ACCEPTED / REJECTED / COUNTER-PROPOSAL Terms and signature of replying delegate:




LMUN
La Martiniere Model United Nations