NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

EQUATO-GUINEAN REFUGEES

Final report,
published in Supplement No. 2 of "The People's Voice".
INTRODUCTION

When the leadership of the A.N.R.D. (1) Spanish initials for the National Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy in Equatorial Guinea, wanted to deal with the Dossier of our Refugees, it realized that before doing so, it would be better to have a general meeting with all these refugees so that they themselves would state their basic needs.

To this end, it mobilized all our militants so that the National Congress on Equato-Guinean refugees would be geographically representative of all the countries in which the Equato-Guineans who had escaped from the bloody regime presided over by Francisco Macias Nguema, so-called President for Life of our country.

At the time of writing this introduction, we can say with satisfaction that our aim has been attained. Naturally, the lack of documents, the lack of money and visa problems, prevented many militants from attending this Conference.

Nevertheless, refugees who have lived (and some who are still living) in Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe attended the conference, along with those living in Italy, Spain and France, with refugees from the American continent and with Equato-Guineans from the East European countries. All of these refugees came to contribute what little they could to this final report which the reader how has the opportunity to read.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EQUATO-GUINEAN REFUGEES.


The Executive Council of the Central Committee of the A.N.R.D., Spanish initials for the National Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy in Equatorial Guinea, in its Information bulletin, "The Peoples' Voice", (2) number 4 (Special Issue), analyzed the dramatic situation of the refugees of our country, Equatorial Guinea. Given the crucial importance of this problem, the A.N.R.D., through its Executive Board of the Central Committee, saw the urgent need to convene a National Conference on the Refugees of Equatorial Guinea and the possible short and medium-term solutions to their problems.

Invitations were sent to our A.N.R.D. militants stationed in countries where we have the greatest numbers of refugees. We also approached the other Equato-Guineans who are not members of our movement.

These invitations were sent out on the 31st of May this year in time to prepare the Conference programme.

(1) Alianza Nacional para la Restauración Democrática de Guinea Ecuatorial.
(2) "La Voz del Pueblo" in Spanish.
Before going on, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. José Chipenda, Moderator of the Africa Task Force of the World Council of Churches; Mr. Lars-Gunnar Erickson, Director of the International University Exchange Fund and Mr. Craig Williamson, Deputy Director of the same organisation; Mrs. Frieda Hüscher, President of the COSGUEREL, Spanish initials for the Swiss Committee for the Liberation of Equatorial Guinea; Mr. Thoelen, of the International Commission of Jurists; Mr. Jean Chicherio, Secretary General of the Swiss League for Human Rights; Mrs. Françoise Poissonnier of the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples; Mrs. Raymonde Martineau, Member of the Executive Committee of the Geneva Section of Amnesty International; Mr. Jacob Nyaose, Trade Unionist of South Africa; Mr. André Besson, President of the International Commission of the Genevan Section of the Swiss Socialist Party; Mr. Max Liniger, Librarian on Equatorial Guinea; Mrs. Jacqueline Roiron, President of the Genevan Committee of the Swiss League for Human Rights; Mrs. Magdalene Kadjar, member of the Executive Committee of the Genevan Section of Amnesty International; Mr. Heinz Gossel, who supports the just struggle of the People of Equatorial Guinea from the Federal Republic of Germany; Mrs. Alphonse Pierard; Mrs. Ann Williams and Mrs. Patricia Bell.

We also thank all the other foreign participants and friends who came to our Conference for the perseverance, hard work, support and international solidarity they have long since shown to the just struggle of the oppressed people of Equatorial Guinea. We should also like to express our warmest gratitude to all those invited who actively support our cause but who were unable to attend our Conference.

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First of all, I should like to give you a brief description of Equatorial Guinea. The territory of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is situated in the Gulf of Guinea surrounded by the Republics of Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria and the Atlantic Ocean. It has a surface area of 26,051 km², with a population of approximately 400,000 inhabitants. It is composed of two areas, the mainland area known as Rio Muni and the island area consisting of Fernando Póo, Annobón, Corisco, Ebolay Grande, Ebolay Chico, Congo, Mbane, Cocolos and other adjacent islets.

For five long centuries, the People of Equatorial Guinea suffered the indignities of oppression, from outright slavery through to clandestine slavery and then to colonialism in all its facets.

On October 12th, 1968, the colonial power of our Country had the idea of granting us pseudo-independence. As to be expected in these cases, a short time elapsed (months, to be specific) and the hopes of our People were once more dashed to the ground with the institution of one of the most barbarous regimes of terror in recorded history. This repression has become more widespread daily.

Our People, held hostage by a lackey, Francisco Macias Nguema, is embarking on one of the journeys to which an entire people must finally have recourse in such a tense situation: the need to abandon their homeland after
having suffered torture, imprisonment, concentration camps, hard labour as
downright slaves, the sackings and burnings of entire villages, the rape of
minors in town squares, etc.

Although our situation has been and continues to be tragic within
the country itself, we may well ask if we have received welcome and better
living conditions in those countries where we went as refugees? The answer
is an unequivocal No. Had it been otherwise, this Conference, the only Con-
ference in the history of our struggle, would not have been necessary.

Our People has never been intimidated, nor has it abandonned the
struggle; but forced exile has pushed us into a new situation.

We crossed the borders of our own country only to find that our bed-
rooms were to be under bridges, on wharves, in jungles, at the mercy of the
elements, in shacks, etc.

A sense of awareness and responsibility has compelled Equato-Guineans
to hold this historic Conference with members of international organizations
and foreign guests to debate, analyze and sum up the numerous difficulties,
tribulations and indignities which Equato-Guineans suffer in different coun-
tries throughout the world as a result of the disastrous turn of political
events in Equatorial Guinea from 1968 onwards, and, in particular, from March
5th, 1969, the date of the attempted coup d'etat. A large part of the Equato-
Guinean population was forced into exile in search of survival and until today
these people totally lack the most basic human rights.

These Equato-Guinean refugees are dispersed throughout various coun-
tries in the world, especially in Africa, Europe and in South American coun-
tries. These are:

60,000 in Gabon
40,000 in Cameroon
15,000 in Nigeria
8,000 in Spain
300 in Sao Tome and Principe

and others in different countries in the world.

It can be said that the living conditions of these Equato-Guinean
refugees, who represent more than 1/4 of our total population, have by no
means improved but have rather considerably deteriorated.

GABON: The Equato-Guineans, fleeing like startled rats, crossing the jungle by
moonlight to avoid falling into the clutches of the fascist police of Macias
and being riddled with bullets or tortured, reach Gabon in search of a minimum
of protection for their lives - but the very opposite happens. In Gabon, Equato-
Guineans live in abject poverty, a situation which can only be described as
inhuman.

The first problem which the Equato-Guineans must face in Gabon is that
of housing - they have nowhere to live. Many work as domestic servants in the
homes of Gabonese families, receiving in exchange no more than a roof over their
heads...
The second problem is that of work for subsistence. The Equato-Guinean is not allowed to work in Gabon and if he does so, he must work at the most arduous, filthy, lowly jobs that not even the Gabonese themselves would dare take on. In a word, the Equato-Guineans who work in Gabon do so like those condemned to hard labour, like people with no rights. On a mere pittance, they cannot even complain of this injustice because they are immediately fired and are threatened with being sent back to Equatorial Guinea, to the tiger-like claws of Francisco Macías — and this means certain death.

Another problem is that of Medical Assistance. Many Equato-Guineans have met their death in Gabon simply because they are not cared for in hospitals, irrespective of the seriousness of their cases, which may be the result of a work or traffic accident — it is simply forbidden to cure them. Despite this, according to confirmed sources, it seems that Gabon makes use of the corpses of Equato-Guineans selling them to foreign powers for scientific experiments.

The next problem is that of Documentation. Equato-Guineans in Gabon have no identity papers since their status has not been defined. The Gabonese Government does not grant them even the most minimal rights, much less the right to political asylum pursuant to the Geneva Convention of 1951. Consequently, the Equato-Guinean cannot move to another country to rejoin his family.

Another of the major problems facing the Equato-Guinean in Gabon is that of Education. Seventy-six per cent of the Equato-Guineans in Gabon are young students who strongly desire to continue their studies but there is no possibility of doing so in Gabonese institutions. Fifteen per cent are minors and cannot learn to read and write in Gabon so that the illiteracy rate continues to rise.

Finally in this year 1978, it is worth mentioning the latest events which took place involving Equato-Guinean refugees in Gabon, from February 13th to the 16th of this month. The Equato-Guinean refugees were the victims of widespread persecution, particularly those living in the capital of Libreville, who were imprisoned to a man and beaten to death, and, as if this were not enough, their sharks were sacked and burnt. As a result of these events, several people were killed or injured, several women miscarried, and two of those killed were toddlers.

As its only explanation of these serious incidents, the "General Quarters against Interference and for Military Security" (D.G.C.I.S.M. in Spanish)(3) of Libreville said that several Equato-Guinean residents had been arrested who, according to the press, were involved in a spy ring set up in Gabon by the Equato-Guinean Government. In the face of these machinations by the Gabonese Government, we wonder: "How can Macías, who has forced 60,000 of our compatriots into such difficult exile suddenly integrate them into his spy network?"

CAMEROON: In this neighbouring country to which Equato-Guineans also fled to take refuge from the fascist police of Macías, they have encountered similar difficulties to those found in Gabon. However, while the situation in Gabon is violent and brutal, in Cameroon the situation is more difficult except that the Equato-Guinean in Cameroon is not subject to constant attacks by the civilian and military population as in Gabon. Instead they are subjected to hard labour at infinitesimal wages which do not even allow them to eke out an existence.

(3) "Dirección General de Contra-Ingerencias y de Seguridad Militar."
Once the Equato-Guinean has crossed the jungle which separates Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon and has set foot on Cameroonian soil, he is transferred to the interior of the country to work on the State cane-sugar farms in Akonolinga and Mbechok, where he guarded by the Cameroonian policemen like a prisoner, beaten and maltreated if he does not yield the quotas stipulated by the policemen and threatened with being sent back to Macias, which means genocide. The Equato-Guineans work in these conditions with no kind of social or health services, without job security, etc. Those who escape from this forced work become domestics in the homes of Cameroonian families in exchange for a minimum of protection.

Apart from the abovementioned difficulties they also are confronted with the following problems:

1°) Housing problems - Equato-Guineans have nowhere to live in Cameroon. Some sleep in the street, in railway stations, etc.

2°) Legal problems - Equato-Guineans in Cameroon have no formal identity papers; they do not have a minimum of legal protection. Many have met their deaths in work or traffic accidents and could not be identified or even the name of the victim discovered. They are subject to arbitrary arrest for not having their papers on them whereas the Cameroonian Government does not issue them in the first place. Finally, the status of the Equato-Guineans in the Cameroon has not been defined. The Cameroonian Government, like the Gabonese, claim that it favors Assimilation (the theory that our compatriots are Cameroonian or Gabonese and not Equato-Guineans) and that for this reason they are not granted the rights of political exiles.

3°) Health problems - Since the Equato-Guinean does not have the right to work, to a fair and acceptable remuneration which ensures him and his family a humane and dignified existence, he cannot pay the medical costs of the Cameroonian hospitals and many have died as a result.

4°) Educational problems - The illiteracy rate is rising daily in the Equato-Guinean colony exiled in Cameroon. The children cannot attend Cameroonian schools and young people cannot continue their studies in Cameroonian professional centers and higher institutes of learning because this is not permitted.

In the midst of this life of subjection, tribulations, poverty, etc... the Cameroonian Government gives special protection to some sixty-one Equato-Guinean refugees which it refers to as "Top Personalities".

NIGERIA : The exodus of the Equato-Guineans to Nigeria is different from that towards the previously mentioned countries, because the Equato-Guineans entered secretly in the planes and boats which the Nigerian Government provided for the repatriation of Nigerian subjects working on plantations and maltreated by the fascist regime of Francisco Macias Nguema. The flight of the Equato-Guineans from the living hell of Macias was difficult because those who could not make fools out of the fascist police of Macias were to receive brutal punishments. They were often asked to perform impossible tasks (such as swimming in the footpath without water) then punished for not being able to do so, made to walk on hot tar, tied to a tree under the hot sun for hours at a stretch with whiplashes, etc. The Equato-Guineans were faced with other problems on setting foot on Nigeria soil: they realized what it meant to be in a country without a home or belongings. The Nigerian Government provided its subjects with some camping tents
where they could get ready to move to different points in the country; they were also given a certain amount of food and money. The Equato-Guineans masquerading as Nigerians could benefit from these conditions. The Nigerians themselves began to leave their tents and many of the Equato-Guineans had to go with them, even if only to work in their houses as domestics, their only payment being a roof over their heads. In this way many could work although they had to accept a pittance as wages for lack of alternative housing.

At this point in our analysis of Equato-Guineans in Nigeria, it can be concluded that one of the most crucial problems of the Equato-Guinean refugee in Nigeria (as in Gabon and Cameroon) is that of Housing.

As to work, the Government does not grant Equato-Guineans a work permit as such but they work illegally with all that this entails: no social security so that in cases of illness the firm takes no responsibility of any kind. The Equato-Guinean in Nigeria does the most lowly and most difficult work possible. Furthermore, he cannot argue back since he would be immediately fired from the firm.

Another problem is that of Documentation: the Equato-Guineans have no papers in Nigeria since the Nigerian Government grants them no status, not even political refugee status.

Another problem is that of Studies: as stated, most of the Equato-Guinean refugees are students eager to study. However, the first difficulty which arises is the lack of money to pay for their studies, added to the problem of the absence of cultural relations between the two countries, leading to the difficulty of recognizing previous studies.

From the above, it can be concluded that the Equato-Guinean in Nigeria needs:

1° Documentation
2° Work (with a minimum of humane conditions)
3° Social and Health Services
4° Educational Grants
5° Housing

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: The living conditions of the people from Equatorial Guinea in this neighbouring country are different from in the previously mentioned countries. In Sao Tome and Prinçipe, in spite of the fact that the refugees from Equatorial Guinea have no status, they are still able to find work in the cocoa plantations and earn the same wages as native workers. However, the situation is still critical and poses certain problems like those already mentioned: no identity papers, no social and health assistance, no right of political asylum.

SPAIN: Contrary to what might be expected, the situation is the same. At the present time, the 8,000 refugees from Equatorial Guinea are located mainly in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Seville, Las Palmas on the island of Gran Canaria, San Sebastian, Palma de Mallorca, Valencia, Malaga, Granada, Galicia, etc. These people have arrived in Spain by various ways and means. The first group which arrived in Spain before independence, can be categorized as follows:
domestic servants of Spanish families who had lived in Equatorial Guinea; those who entered through service in the Spanish army; students, usually on grants from the former Autonomous Government of Equatorial Guinea. All of these people from Equatorial Guinea are refugees today.

The second group arrived after independence. They fled Equatorial Guinea through the jungle or in fragile dugout canoes across the ocean (risking their lives since if they were arrested by Macias' fascist police they would be automatically executed) to neighbouring or bordering countries (Cameroon, Gabon or Nigeria), assuming of course that they managed to overcome countless border obstacles. From there they received safe conduct to Spain. The deterioration of the political situation in Equatorial Guinea means that none of these people can return to their homeland. In view of this situation, President Macias became disturbed and concerned that this mass of refugees from Equatorial Guinea could form a Just Opposition to his dictatorial and bloody regime and he passed a law which required all people from Equatorial Guinea residing in Spain, students in particular, to abandon their studies and return to the country. But out of a justified fear for their lives, they did not obey the law and chose to remain in Spain. Faced with the failure of that measure, Macias adopted another measure of force by withdrawing all study grants (the only means of support the students had). But this measure was no more successful than the previous one. Thus it was that in 1972, the "President for Life" of Equatorial Guinea finally proclaimed a law which stripped all Equato-Guineans of their nationality for merely living or staying in Spain. For failing to obey his order because they were fully aware of the brutal and blind repression of the Macias regime, all these people from Equatorial Guinea lost their nationality, their means of support and, for many, it also meant that they had to interrupt their studies and their families were subjected to persecution within the country.

In that same year, the embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Madrid, on the order of Macias announced the suspension of all further issue and renewal of passports and all other types of consular documents to Equato-Guineans residing in Spain (Annex No 5).

At the same time, the Spanish Government, far from granting some sort of status to these now homeless people, adopted an official policy of apparent ignorance of these facts. We say "apparent" because:

On January 30th 1971, the Spanish Government, for no apparent reason, passed the famous Law on Confidential Material concerning all information on Equatorial Guinea. This was not repealed until October 20th, 1976 as a result of the Trevijano scandal.

This scandal in fact, revealed only a fraction of the undercurrents of major economic interests at stake which caused the disaster facing the people of Equatorial Guinea today. This was also why the sorry truth about the situation faced by Equato-Guineans today was hidden for so many years from the Spanish people.

In 1974 the Spanish Government sent a circular to the State Security Office (D.G.S.), pursuant to Law 522/74, ordering the National Identity Card teams to proceed with the withdrawal of the Card from all Equato-Guineans who possessed one. Thus, all Equato-Guineans were reduced to the status of stateless people (as they are currently considered by the Spanish Government).
On March 5th, 1975, the situation became even more unbearable. The Equato-Guineans in Spain who opposed the fascist dictatorship of Macias, occupied the Embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Madrid, to denounce and protest against the crimes committed by the dictator and against the distressing situation these people were faced with in Spain. They called for the Spanish Government to recognize as political refugees those Equato-Guineans living in Spain. In fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a discussion with the protesters promised that a "rapid solution to the problem" would be sought. To date such a solution has not been forthcoming.

In 1977, after the visit (November 7-9) of the President of Gabon, Mr. Omar Bongo (formerly Albert Bernard Bongo) to Spain, a statement appeared in the press to the effect that during his visit, Mr. Bongo had requested diplomatic aid from the Spanish Government in his claims on the islands of Fernando Po, Corisco, Annobón and the adjacent islets which belong to Equatorial Guinea, in return for support for Spain from Omar Bongo as current president of OAU, concerning the "Spanish and not African nature of the Canary Islands".

It was not purely by chance that the Official State Bulletin of Spain published the famous Royal Decree No. 2, 987/1977 of the Spanish Ministry of Justice according to which "certain Equato-Guineans particularly attached to Spain" could be granted Spanish nationality. One question springs to mind automatically: Ten years after Equatorial Guinea became independent, ten years filled with terrible suffering for Equato-Guineans in Spain... why has it taken ten years for the Spanish Government to finally realize that there are in the country "certain Equato-Guineans particularly attached to Spain?" The current situation of Equato-Guineans in Spain is as follows: As the aforementioned facts show very clearly and concretely, the people from Equatorial Guinea living in Spain today number more than 8,000 (eight thousand) and are faced with conditions of extreme insecurity.

It must be pointed out however, that all this manoeuvring falls within the context of the policy adopted by the Spanish Government on the one hand and the fascist Government of MaciasNguema on the other hand. This collaboration is particularly noticeable in the refusal by the Spanish Government to grant some sort of status to Equato-Guineans who are kept in a situation which can only be qualified as indescribable. This mass of exiles, deprived of their nationality and without any status to fall back on, find themselves in the sad and paradoxical situation of existing in a physical sense but not in a legal sense. They are simply "stateless people" as they are currently designated by the Spanish Government. Based on this, words alone are not enough to describe the countless arbitrary and irritating problems facing refugees from Equatorial Guinea in Spain.

1° Permanent state of insecurity since they lack valid identity papers and, what is more, have no way of obtaining them
2° No work
3° Subject to arbitrary detention
4° No social or health assistance
5° Cannot travel to visit relatives because of a lack of identity papers
6° No financial means of continuing their studies. In addition to unemployment, they are forced to accept the most difficult and poorly paid jobs since they have no legal or statutory backing which would guarantee them a labour contract nor do they have union legislation to protect their interests.
Under such conditions, the law of survival reigns and the Equato-Guineans are forced, against their will, to perform for meager wages the only jobs which Spanish society allows them.

In the absence of social security, labour contracts, and subject to blatant discrimination, Equato-Guineans in Spain are forced into a state of permanent unemployment with all the consequences it entails: hunger, mental illness, alcoholism, desperation, prostitution, etc. In short, all that poverty at the worse entails.

This is the sad reality of the life led by 90% of Equato-Guineans in Spain, the so-called Mother Country. Within this disturbing set of circumstances is the disastrous situation of the women from Equato-Guinea in Spain. Women constitute more than 30% of the previously mentioned total. These women, for the most part, are young students who came to study (professional training or university) but who had to abandon their studies for lack of funds without obtaining any professional or university qualification. The brave women of our Country in exile in Spain, faced with a situation of surviving without identity papers, without any social or health security, have often had to accept the most degrading types of work: in night clubs as "service girls", in discotheques as go-go girls, in cabarets as striptease girls and have even at times resorted to prostitution and related activities.

In the past few years several Equato-Guineans have been found dead in Spain under unusual circumstances. Three among them were women and many others have been admitted to psychiatric hospitals.

**EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES**: Equato-Guinean students in Eastern European countries find themselves in a situation where they cannot return to Equatorial Guinea once they have completed their studies. The situation is particularly serious in the Soviet Government signed cultural agreements with the regime of Francisco Macias Nguema and everything is done on a government to government basis and not on a government to individual basis. For this reason, the people from Equatorial Guinea in the USSR cannot be treated as political refugees since the Soviet Government takes these agreements into consideration. In addition to this, Equatorial Guineans in the USSR and the other Eastern European countries have two problems:

1°) **Problem of Identity Papers**: In fact 56% of the students from Equatorial Guinea in the USSR and the Eastern European countries are without identity papers. We all know what this means in a European country and in the world today. This point can be illustrated quite well. Most of the Equato-Guineans in these countries go to study professional and university careers for a period of at least four years. A passport from Equatorial Guinea is valid for two years unless renewed for another two years. But the passports of these Equato-Guineans cannot be renewed because most of these students have been denied the nationality of Equatorial Guinea.

2°) **No prospects after graduation**: They cannot return to Equatorial Guinea nor can they remain in the USSR. Many of them have taken the desperate decision to return and have been foully murdered by the fascist police of Francisco Macias Nguema. The students in the USSR and in the Eastern European countries have their backs against the wall.
ITALY: The main problem facing the people from Equatorial Guinea in Italy is the same as in the aforementioned cases. The Italian Government has inexplicably withheld identity papers. They have not even been granted the status of political refugees in spite of the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees which was signed on July 28th, 1951.

In Italy, Equato-Guineans live in inhuman conditions: a permanent state of insecurity, no work, continual risks, no social or health assistance, etc. They are forced to interrupt their studies to look for means of support. Many of those with degrees are faced with chronic unemployment.

OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE REST OF THE WORLD: The situation of Equato-Guineans in the rest of Europe and the world is just as urgent. With the exception of a very few cases which can be counted on the fingers of one hand, in which an Equato-Guinean has been granted the status of political refugee, in most cases there is still a lot to be done by the countries in which some of our compatriots have taken refuge. The living conditions of Equato-Guineans in Europe and in the rest of the world are the same as in the previously mentioned cases, i.e., they do not have identity papers nor the status of political refugees. Since they have no legal protection, neither do they benefit from social or health assistance.

The saddest case was that of our friend MANUEL OGUCO MANOOGA, murdered in cold blood by Francisco Macias Nguema's agents in Holland while he was searching for a piece of food and shelter after experiencing so many misadventures in Equatorial Guinea and in Spain. Manuel Ogucu Manooga lies today, yearning to witness from his tomb an improvement in the situation of thousands and thousands of his compatriots from Equatorial Guinea in exile. But unfortunately, the situation is only growing worse, in silence.

CONCLUSION: The problems of all the refugees from Equatorial Guinea have, as has been noted, certain common denominators. These problems are mainly the following:

- Legal problems: No Identity Papers
- Employment problems: Since we have no identity papers, we have no work permits.
- Housing problems
- Education problems: Scholarships
- Medical and Health Assistance
- Social Assistance

The Conference on Equato-Guinean Refugees established that the problem of the Equato-Guinean refugees is one which neither the African countries nor the major Powers wish to tackle. It is a taboo problem. The major Powers are more interested in the raw materials produced by Equatorial Guinea. They are more interested in the strategic location of our country. These Powers do not care about the fate of the hostages of Francisco Macias Nguema who live within the country nor are they concerned about the fate of the refugees from Equatorial Guinea who are hostages outside the country, because they prefer to maintain the current "status quo" so as not to upset things.

The tragic situation of Equatorial Guinea is the only one in the world where all the strategic, political and financial interests of the major Powers are in agreement; the Organization of African Unity (OAU) is also in agreement
with these interests. Francisco Macias Nguema is a solution for all these interests. He plays the role of the black slaves of the last century to martyrize and sell his people to the forces of oppression which are still invading the African continent. Francisco Macias Nguema represents the ideal man for International Imperialism which wants to erase Equatorial Guinea from the map of Africa and of the world in order to exploit the subterranean wealth of our State freely.

We the refugees from Equatorial Guinea have therefore come to realize during this Conference that we would only solve our problems by relying on our own strength. We will fight, to the last drop of our blood to obtain the rights which belong to us as human beings and as a people.

The Conference on Equato-Guineans hereby appeals to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to exert pressure on the Member Governments of the United Nations to recognize the refugee status of the refugees from Equatorial Guinea who live in their respective territories, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of July 28th, 1951.

The Conference on Equato-Guinean Refugees further appeals to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to exert pressure on the governments of the neighbouring countries of Equatorial Guinea to apply the Convention on the Refugees on the African Continent which was signed by the said Organization at Addis Ababa on September 10th, 1969.

Finally, the Conference on Equato-Guinean Refugees appeals to all Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organizations to help a people - the people of Equatorial Guinea - who are gradually disappearing and are being exterminated. The Conference on Equato-Guinean Refugees has thought and is convinced that these Organizations can play a very important role in exerting pressure on all the governments of the world to take into account the tragic situation of Equa-to-Guineans both within the country and in exile and to consider the possible short and medium-term solutions. And the People of Equatorial Guinea will be extremely grateful to them, for rescuing a people is an honour worthy of all Mankind.
Embassy of the Republic
of
Equatorial Guinea
Madrid

To whom it may concern:

The highest ministerial instances of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea hereby order this Embassy to suspend, until further notice, the issue or renewal of international passports of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

Ambassador


First Secretary.