

The Financial Times Friday June 7 1968

Other Overseas News

Dutch suspend all arms deliveries to Nigeria

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE Dutch Government has suspended all arms deliveries to Federal Nigeria with immediate effect.

This was announced by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Joseph Luns, in the Lower House to-day in reply to questions asked on behalf of all major Dutch parties.

In addition, the Government will approach other countries with the suggestion that their arms deliveries be also suspended until the conflict between Nigeria and Biafra has been resolved. The Dutch Government will also urge the Federal Nigerian Government not to prevent the delivery of goods which the International Red Cross could send to alleviate the sufferings of the population of Biafra.

Last week the Government disclosed that export licences for six hundred 76 millimetre shells for the (former Dutch) frigate *Ogoya*, five thousand 105 millimetre Howitzer shells and over 16m. rounds of rifle ammunition intended for Federal Nigeria had been granted by the Dutch authorities since July 1, 1967. These orders have been placed with Artillerie Inrichtingen, one of the Dutch Government's ordnance factories. Some of this ammunition has already been exported to Nigeria.

In reply to a request for an im-

mediate export ban, the Government then went no further than to say it was prepared to refrain from granting any new licences for arms exports pending the outcome

Charles Smith writes: The British Government had received no approach from Holland on the question of an arms ban by last night and the official response to the Dutch move was therefore non-committal.

In the meantime Chief Anthony Enahoro, leader of the Federal Nigerian delegation at the Kampala peace talks was due in London last night and there appeared to be some possibility that further attempts might be made to resume negotiations on a ceasefire in the civil war.

Mr. Arnold Smith, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, who was largely responsible for the convening of the Kampala talks, is also back in London. The official view of his Secretariat is that the talks have been "suspended," not broken off.

Sir Louis Mbanefo, the leader of the Biafran delegation in Kampala, has at the last minute postponed his departure for Biafra, planned for to-night. Informed sources have speculated that the reason for his decision is because the British Cabinet may discuss the Nigerian situation this morning.

THE HAGUE, June 6.

of the recent armistice negotiations.

Meanwhile, a Special Correspondent writes: The Nigerian Federal Government has asked the International Red Cross, the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church to appeal to Biafra to renounce secession. This move is seen in conjunction with General Gowon's statement of Tuesday that Federal troops would not press their attack on the densely populated areas of Biafra unless all appeals fail.

The international bodies called upon by the Nigerian authorities have recently come in for criticism in Lagos because of the sympathy they are said to have shown for the Biafran cause, and the Nigerian message is likely to intensify the international debate about the justification of the war.

Biafran reports speak of renewed military activity in the Enugu sector. There are some indications that pressure by Federal troops on Biafra's northern front has lessened in recent days. The Biafrans also claim that the Port Harcourt/Owerri road has been almost completely cleared of Federal troops. Port Harcourt airport, they say, is still being fought over and has at no stage been accessible for use by Federal troops.

NE

ANY Zeala of hi like and applia the busin excite to pr count the r produ produ there by 30

This stir Zeala banne reaso adju least and t all th to A refigr has l and also reallt crisi.

Nat

It's the ce prices citing New devel identi worlo to E evadi cheer caseir