



**A TIME FOR ACTION**

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## *Preface*

General Murtala Muhammed became the head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria on July 30, 1975, following a change of leadership that occurred on July 29—without a drop of blood. The situation in the country then was succinctly mirrored in the Head of State's maiden statement—"DRIFT AND CHAOS ARRESTED"—broadcast to the Nation on July 30. The statement says "...despite (Nigeria's) great human and material resources, the (previous) government has not been able to fulfil the legitimate expectations of our people. Nigeria has been left to drift. This situation if not arrested would inevitably have resulted in chaos and bloodshed." The new administration headed by General Muhammed took measures designed to give the nation a new lease of life.

In this booklet can be found, in chronological order, those speeches by General Murtala Muhammed, Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces which announced the dawn of a new era and brought solace to the people of this nation. They reveal the determination of the new administration to cleanse the body politic of the country while at the same time providing guidelines and enunciating policies that will direct national aspiration and the attainment of national objectives.

The speeches, considered together, are in themselves inspiring; and they demonstrate the consistency of a political treatise orientating the people towards higher ideals.

General Muhammed was assassinated on his way to the office on Friday, February 13, 1976 by Lieutenant-Colonel B. S. Dimka and some dissident soldiers in an abortive coup. He was in office for two hundred and one days that witnessed dynamic leadership and action, and his administration was guided during the period by overall concern for "national interest and consideration for justice, peace and stability."

*February 1976*

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