



DAWN OF A NEW POLITICAL ERA

An Address To The Nation

By

PRESIDENT I. B. BABANGIDA

**On The Registration of
Two Political Parties**

Reproduced by

(MAMSER) CROSS RIVER STATE

For Public Education and Enlightenment

CBS/3/750

EDWIN MADUNAGU



DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIAL MOBILISATION,
(MAMSER) CROSS RIVER STATE



General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida CFR, fss, mni
President & Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.
Federal Republic of Nigeria

**DAWN OF A NEW POLITICAL ERA
AN ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY
PRESIDENT IBRAHIM B. BABANGIDA
ON THE REGISTRATION OF TWO POLITICAL PARTIES
ON 7TH OCTOBER, 1989**

Fellow Nigerians, I address you once again, on the progress of our transition programme for the return of our beloved country to a democratic political order. As you are aware, the National Electoral Commission (NEC), has submitted its "Report and Recommendations on party registration." This was released immediately to the public, even before the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) had time to consider the report.

In my broadcast to the nation on the political programme on 1st July, 1987, I made it very clear the kind of political system we intended to bequeath to our people when we hand-over the reins of authority to duly elected civilians on October 1st 1992.

Among other things, I stated then that: "from our past experiences, our political programme must be gradual, purposeful and effective. It must aim at laying the basic foundation of a new socio-political order. We must create a new set of values — a new set of political attitudes or political culture aimed at ushering in a new social order. For this administration, this is a duty we owe to the future generations yet unborn. For us, it is a challenge we shall face with the resolve and fortitude characteristic of our military profession. We are committed to laying such foundation for political stability as will render military intervention unnecessary as a vehicle for alternating or changing governments.

I wish to reiterate, once more, our solemn commitment to laying such firm foundations of stability in our new political system that will serve our purpose as a nation and that will obviate the need for any further military intervention in the political life of our country.

To that end, we have pursued the transition programme meticulously.

Democracy, in nearly all pluralistic modern societies, is practised through political parties. Political parties, articulate and serve the aggregate coalition of interests which each one of them represents. Political parties not only check each other in the process of governance, they provide known and assessed alternative leadership for the country. For that to happen, however, each of such political parties must be well established, properly organised and widely trusted in the society. Political parties that enjoy internal consistency in philosophy and action hold the key to the sustenance of democracy in any country, including Nigeria. That is why this administration opted for a two party system in which each of the parties shall be a well established. Internally cohesive and competently organised entity with decent and enduring ar-