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FROM SIPC LONDON PAR/1 (PAR) ++
TO SHELL LAGOS GMB (PAGL) ++

REF. 09A0206174 02/06/93

CONFIDENTIAL

VARIOUS

WE WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER A NUMBER OF POINTS AND RAISE SOME OTHERS WHICH WE HOPE WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THE CO-OPERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ALSO HELP PLANNING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LAG05524 OF 10/5, WE ARE PLEASED THAT YOU CONSIDER THE LEAFLET WELL-PRODUCED. HOWEVER, WE NOTE YOUR CONCERN OVER THE PHOTOGRAPH CHOSEN FOR THE 'PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT' PART OF 'NIGERIA AND SHELL PARTNERS IN PROGRESS' AND ARE ARRANGING A REPRINT. WE SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE PICTURE SELECTED WAS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE REALITY OF LIVING IN THE OIL-PRODUCING COMMUNITIES, RECOGNISING THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THERE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY SOME OF THEIR MORE FORTUNATE COLLEAGUES IN CITIES AND AVOIDING THE PORTRAYAL OF A GLOSSY 'PR' IMAGE.

2. WE HEARD ON THE GRAPEVINE, VIA THE HSE MEETING IN THE HAGUE ATTENDED BY PRECIOUS OMUKU, THAT A MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE WITH KEN SARO-WIWA ON 15/5. WE ALSO HEARD ON THE GRAPEVINE FIRST ABOUT DISTURBANCES ON 26/4. AND THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT, CONCERNING THE TRANS-NIGER PIPELINE WAS FIRST BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY THE CONTRACTOR VIA SHELL INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS AND FROM REUTERS.

IN ALL THESE INSTANCES WE WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED IT IF GROUP PA COULD HAVE BEEN ADVISED DIRECTLY SOONER. WE APPRECIATE THAT IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT, BUT THE SOONER WE ARE ADVISED ABOUT AN INCIDENT THE BETTER ARE OUR CHANCES OF NOT APPEARING EVASIVE WHEN RESPONDING TO QUERIES FROM THE PRESS AND ACTION GROUPS. GIVEN THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SITUATION, WE LIKE TO BE SURE THAT THE MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE CAN BE IN A POSITION TO BE ADEQUATELY INFORMED AND ABLE TO DEFEND THE GROUP POSITION.

RECEIVED
MESSAGE

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Confidential

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COULD YOU PLEASE ENSURE THAT SOMEBODY IN SPDC HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LET US KNOW IN GROUP PA DIRECTLY WHENEVER THERE IS AN EVENT WHICH HAS SOME BEARING ON RELATIONS WITH YOUR OIL-PRODUCING COMMUNITIES?

3. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN UPDATE ON THE BRIEFING PAPER THAT RESULTED FROM MEETINGS IN LONDON AND THE HAGUE IN FEBRUARY RECOMMENDING ACTION AREAS (AND WHICH HAS RECENTLY GAINED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY THROUGH THE NIGERIAN GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER AND ACTION GROUPS OUTSIDE NIGERIA). COULD YOU ADVISE US OF THE STATUS OF THE VARIOUS ACTION POINTS?

ALSO, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A GROWING NUMBER OF DIARY COMMITMENTS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, WE'D BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD RECOMMEND A COUPLE OF SLOTS THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR A TRAINING WORKSHOP THAT WAS ALSO AGREED AT THAT TIME.

4. FURTHER, WE HEAR THAT YOU ARE THINKING OF UPDATING YOUR CORPORATE BROCHURES 'SHELL IN NIGERIA' AND 'COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'. CAN YOU CONFIRM WHETHER ANY ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED FROM THIS OFFICE.

5. MAY WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AGAIN A LETTER FROM MS JUTTA BERNS FAXED FROM THIS OFFICE IN THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL. SO FAR SHE HAS NOT CHASED US FOR A RESPONSE, BUT WE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR THAT. MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD OFFER GUIDANCE SOONEST ON HER QUESTIONS WHICH RELATE TO A VISIT TO SPDC SOME 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS AGO WHEN SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED AROUND OPERATIONS BY LAWSON-JACK. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU NEED THIS LETTER FAXED AGAIN.

6. WE NOTE SPDC'S RESPONSE TO GABRIEL UMODEN FOLLOWING HIS REQUEST TO REPRODUCE PHOTOGRAPHS. UMODEN ADMITTEDLY IS ASKING FOR AN AWFUL LOT OF MATERIAL AND WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT SPDC MAY NOT WISH TO SUPPORT A COMMERCIAL PROJECT, AT THIS DISTANCE THE LETTER APPEARS SOMEWHAT CURT AND NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF IMPROVING COMMUNITY RELATIONS. FURTHER, IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT, UMODEN HAS A LETTER BACKING HIS VENTURE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, HE HAS BEEN TOLD THE PIX ARE SPDC'S AND THAT YOU ARE THE FINAL ARBITER, BUT HE IS PREPARED TO CREDIT ALL THE PICTURES AND ALSO TO PAY FOR THE RIGHT TO USE THEM. HE HAS LEFT A MESSAGE FOR US TO RING HIM BACK, BUT WE FEEL THAT ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION ON HIS USING PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE DIRECTLY WITH SPDC. DO YOU AGREE?

WE APOLOGISE FOR THE LENGTH OF THIS TELEX.

REGARDS, DAVID WILLIAMS

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