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OBASANJO BROADCASTS TO THE NATION:

February 13 plot 'substantially disposed of'

DIMKA AND GOMWALK EXECUTED

With five others
for their
role

From A STAFF
CORRESPONDENT

THE dismissed Military Governor of the defunct Benue Plateau State, Mr. J. D. Gomwalk and Lt.-Col. Bukar S. Dimka, principal actor and co-ordinator of the abortive February 13 coup, were executed in Lagos on Saturday.

They were among seven people who were executed by firing squad for their part in the coup attempt.

Others who faced the firing squad at Kiri-kiri Prisons, Lagos, were: Lt. S. Kwale, W. O. I. E. Bawa, Col. Isa Bukar, Major J. K. Afolabi and Mr. H. Shaiyen (Police).

The Supreme Military Council confirmed the death sentences along with other conclusions of the Military Tribunal at its meeting of Friday, May 14, this year.

Eleven other persons included. See Page 15, Col. 1



THE end for a plotter ... Gomwalk after paying the supreme price

FULL TEXT OF HEAD OF STATE'S
BROADCAST, OTHER STORIES
AND PICTURES — See Page 15
and Back page

'GOWON—
A WANTED
PERSON'



YAKUBU GOWON
... Declared wanted

YAKUBU Gowon, former Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of this country's Armed Forces, has been dismissed from the Army and declared a wanted person.

In his broadcast to the nation on Saturday night, the Head of State, Lt.-Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, said the British Government had refused to return Gowon to this country. He is in Britain, studying political science at Warwick University.

Gowon has on his part refused to return home despite guarantees of fair trial and protection by the Federal Military Government.

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NEWS AT HOME NEWS AT HOME NEWS AT HOME NEWS AT HOME

OBASANJO'S MESSAGE TO THE NATION

IN AND AROUND

NIGERIA

From New NIGERIAN staff reporters and correspondents

11 JAILED FOR LIFE

From Front Page, Col. 3

ing a woman were sentenced to life imprisonment. They are:— Captain C. Wuyep, Captain A. A. Maidobo, W. O. II E. Isah, Sgt. J. Bupwada, Lt. A. Walbe, Mr. S. K. Dimka (Police) Mr. D. G. Gontul, (Police), Major A. K. Abang, Mr. Gyang Pam (Police), Mrs. Helen Gomwalk and Mr. S. Anyadufu.

Captain Isaiah Gowon was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment while Mr. J. Inuwa and Lt. Col. J. S. Madugu got sentences of ten years and two years respectively. Fifty-six other persons were discharged including Mr. S. O. Ogbemudia (former Military Governor of Mid-West State — now Bendel State) and Squadron Leader Moses Bala Gowon.

A total of 219 military personnel and civilians were arrested after the abortive coup and of the 150 recommended by the Military Board of Inquiry for trial, 58 were discharged by the military tribunal.

On March 11 this year, 32 coup plotters including the condemned Federal Commissioner for Defence, Major-General I. D. Bisalla, were executed by firing squad for their part in the abortive coup in which the former Head of State, General Murtala Muhammed and other Army personnel were murdered.

Saturday's execution brings to 39, the number of coup plotters so far executed. But the government made it clear that further investigations as might be necessary into the abortive coup would continue.

THE Head of State, Lt-General Olusegun Obasanjo, at the weekend made a special broadcast to the nation.

The full text of the head of state's broadcast reads:

"The Supreme Military Council has been meeting to consider, among other things, the conclusions of the Military Tribunal appointed by the Federal Military Government to try those involved in the abortive coup of February 13. The council has confirmed the sentences passed by the tribunal. Those condemned to death by firing squad have been executed today.

"These include Lt-Col. B. S. Dimka and Mr. J. D. Gomwalk, two of the principal actors of the abortive coup. With these executions and the other sentences confirmed we have now substantially disposed of the major issues arising from the coup attempt.

"Let me assure the nation that throughout the investigations, scrupulous efforts were made to ensure that all those accused were fully heard and given a fair trial. Indeed, it was because of our desire to be meticulous in the pursuit of justice that it took this long to put the issues, resulting from the abortive coup behind us.

"Regarding Yakubu Gowon, you are aware of the efforts being made to get him back to Nigeria and answer the serious allegations of his complicity in the abortive coup. He has continued to resolutely refuse to come despite the guarantees for his safety and fair trial which the Federal Military Government has given him. In spite of this refusal, we have resisted the expediency of trying him in absentia because of our belief that he should be given a chance to be fully heard and fairly tried.

"We have similarly assured the British Government of Yakubu Gowon's safety and justice. These assurances were personally conveyed by the Commissioner for External Affairs. Believing in the strength of the relationship that existed between our two countries and peoples, we had requested the British Government to facilitate Yakubu Gowon's return to Nigeria.

"The British Prime Minister, through a message brought by his Minister of State for Foreign



All the seven condemned coup plotters being shot by the firing squad.

Affairs, has now informed us of the decision of his government not to grant this request. We have made it clear to the British Government that any country which harbours Yakubu Gowon, or for that matter, Dauda Usman or Clement Yildar, is committing an unfriendly act towards the government and people of Nigeria.

"In the meantime, the Supreme Military Council has decided to dismiss Yakubu Gowon from the Nigerian Army. He will from now on be treated as a wanted person to face the allegations against him any time he sets foot on Nigerian soil. Dauda Usman and Clement Yildar have also been dismissed from the army.

"February 13, 1976 was a tragic day for all of us. No one should be in doubt about the unmitigated disaster and unparalleled bloodshed which would have ensued had the coup of February succeeded. We mourned the death of our late dear Head of State General Murtala Ramat Muhammed, and those who were murdered with him, in as befitting a way as our energies and sorrows allowed. With the tragedy behind us, we should now pursue with determination and vigour, our declared policies and programme of action. We have all learnt valuable lessons from the sad experience which we must never forget.

"Our purpose is to instil a new sense of public morality among all classes of Nigerians. Let me, therefore, here and now serve notice that we shall not tolerate indiscipline. We shall not condone corruption. We shall not allow inefficiency or improper conduct on the part of any public officer.

"This administration will not be diverted from its chosen course. Ours is a responsive administration. Those who have genuine grievances or complaints should use the established channels to secure redress. But anyone who takes the law into his hands will henceforth have himself to blame. The Federal Military Government will continue to ensure the smooth running of all our essential services. This is a time for sacrifice not intransigence. We shall not allow selfish elements or those who appear bent on breaching the solidarity between the government and the people of this our great country to unleash industrial, student, economic and other forms of unrest.

"We shall be severe in our dealing with foreign and Nigerian profiteers who try to stand in the way of our policy to free our economy and improve the lot of the ordinary and deprived citizenry of this coun-

try. "I expect every public officer indeed, every Nigerian to measure up to a high degree of efficiency, integrity and moral rectitude. The purge of the public service of undesirable elements was undertaken to revitalise the service. This objective has not been fully achieved. Those that are diligent and honest in their work need not fear. Indeed they would be rewarded. But those who continue to be indolent, inefficient or corrupt will be removed. These standards are set not only for public servants but for all Nigerians.

"Our experience so far has shown the need to heighten our sense of civic responsibility and vigilance. This is your nation; it belongs to all of us. If we allow it to be ruined, each one of us will be ruined.

"This administration believes in the capacity of Nigerians to make ours a greater country where social and economic justice, political freedom and the rule of law prevail. We are dedicated to the pursuit of this goal. I am therefore calling on everyone of you to rise to the challenge. "Good night."



Lt-Col. Dimka told interviewers before his execution: "I know I took part in the abortive coup".



Two of the coup plotters after the execution.



J. D. Gomwalk dismissed Military Governor of the defunct Benue Plateau State — one of the condemned coup plotters facing the firing squad.