INTERNATIONAL

Abubakar pledges to start political transition program

By Dorothy R. Leavell Special to Sentinel-Voice

Nigerian Head of State General Abdulsalam Abubakar pledged his full commitment to the transition program outlined by General Sani Abacha's administration on Tuesday, June 9, assuring he will do everything to ensure its successful implementation.

His pledge answered questions following the sudden death of General Sani Abacha on Monday, June 8 in Abuja, Nigeria about whether Nigeria would ever know democracy.

The country of 115 million people was a little less than 60 days away from the culminating election to determine the head of state in presidential elections.

The election takes place Aug. 1.

In his first broadcast as head of state and commander-in- broken to State House

Nigeria, Abubakar announced he was consulting agencies at the highest level of the transition program, soliciting cooperation from all Nigerians and extending an invitation to Nigerians in self-exile to return home to join in the reconstruction.

He also declared a onemonth period of national mourning beginning on June 9, and ending July 7, to solemnize the death of Abacha.

Abubakar was named Nigeria's 11th Head of State early in the morning of June 9. The Nigerian Press reported that he was also promoted to the rank of general, having held the rank of Major. Gen. He becomes Nigeria's eighth military ruler.

News of the appointment of the infantry general was 25-minute meeting of the Provisional Ruling Council in Abuja by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhali Gidado Idris, at 2:10

In his acceptance speech Abubakar said: "Yesterday morning we all witnessed a sad event in the history of our great country.

We woke up to the news of the death of our beloved Head of State, General Sani Abacha, May His Soul Rest in Peace.

"As a result of his death, the PRC has decided to declare seven days of national mourning beginning from Tuesday. Flags will be flown at half mast.

"The PRC also decided to appoint me as the new head of state. It also approved my elevation from the rank of Major Gen. to full general," he

He described appointment as a "personal challenge," and emphasized that "all hands must be on deck to move this great nation forward."

Abubakar also appealed to the international community: "My fervent appeal goes to the international community for their understanding and cooperation. Nigeria demands a fair hearing and constructive engagement, not isolation. We remain an important member of the international system through the framework of the United Nations, a veritable

instrument of international cooperation and interdependence.

"We shall honour all our international obligations and maintain our national commitment to international peace and security, especially in the West African sub-region. Similarly, we intend to continue to have friendly relations with all nations of the world. However, in spite of the recent developments in the country, we shall resolutely defend our sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity."

Abubakar was born on June

13, 1942 in Minna, the capital of Minna State.

He attended Native Authority Primary School in Minna from 1950 to 1956, Bida's Provincial Secondary School from 1957 to 1962, and the Technical Institute in Kaduna in 1963.

He first enlisted in the Nigerian Air Force, then joined the Army where he served in many positions.

He was appointed Chief of Defense Staff at Defencse Headquarters on December 1, 1993, where he served until his elevation to head of state following Abacha's death.

U.N. official says famine near in Guinea-Bissau

hopes for democratic Nigeria

interest in our opinions. He

often implemented ideas

expressed in our audience with

him and his staff. We knew

him as a man of integrity and a

man who sought to provide the

greatest of opportunities and

advancement for his beloved

that democracy and civilian

rule will not be fulfilled by him

personally, but pray that

democracy in Nigeria will be a monument to his work. Yet,

we are encouraged that new

Head of State Abubakar plans

to implement Abacha's

all saddened by his death and

send our sympathy to his wife,

Mrs. Maryam Abacha and his

family upon their great loss."

Leavell concluded, "We are

transition program."

"We are further distressed

Nigeria and its people.

Special to Sentinel-Voice

MPAK, Senegal — Hundreds of thousands of war refugees inside Guinea-Bissau face imminent famine if food and medical relief aren't delivered immediately, a U.N. refugee agency spokesman warned earlier this week.

As many as 300,000 people have fled fighting in the West African nation's capital, converging on towns north of the city where there is little food, clean water or medical supplies.

Although fighting near the capital, Bissau, was not as fierce earlier in the week as in recent weeks, gunfire and the blast of artillery shells were heard near the airport.

The country's breakaway military faction has dug in there to hold off loyalist forces and Senegalese troops.

Senegal, fighting on behalf of Guinea Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira, has about 1,500 troops inside the country and has begun shipping in supplies and troop reinforcements from the southern town of Ziguinchor. Leavell praises Abacha,

Special to Sentinel-Voice

R. Leavell expressed her

cooperation with the new

Nigerian Head of State, while

at the same time expressing

her condolences upon the death.

Head of State of Nigeria Sani

Abacha was shocking to me

and the delegations of African-

publishers who had met the

General while participating in

fact-finding missions to

Nigeria beginning in 1995,"

said Leavell, president of the

"Having met with General

Abacha on many occasions,

we found him to be a great listener and he showed great

Publishers' Association.

National

newspaper

Newspaper

"The untimely death of the

of General Sani Abacha.

In a recent release, Dorothy

The two-week-old conflict was triggered when former Guinea-Bissau chief of army staff Brig. Ansumane Mane tried unsuccessfully to topple Vieira. Heavy fighting has left the capital scarred by rocket and artillery fire, its streets virtually deserted.

The vast majority of the city's 300,000 people have fled Bissau, many flocking to the central towns of Mansoa, Bafata, and Canchungo.

Few refugees have been permitted to cross the heavily guarded border into Senegal, but aid supplies and other traffic has been stopped from going into Guinea-Bissau.

In Geneva, the High Commission for Refugees has appealed to West African nations to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Guinea-Bissau's government on Sunday ruled out peace talks with renegade forces unless they declare an immediate cease-fire and explain their motives for launching a coup, the Portuguese news agency Lusa quoted a senior Guinea-Bissau official, Male Sane, as saying.

Also releasing a statement

was Roy Innis, national

chairman of the Congress of

Racial Equality, who along

with the Black Press was a part

of the first fact-finding tour of

Nigeria when Leavell led a

delegation of African-

American publishers in

and a strong leader," Innis said.

"In his short tenure as Head of

State of the most powerful

country in Africa, he achieved

a great deal. His historic

liberation of Liberia allowed

them to elect a democratic government, and his ousting

of a military junta in Sierra

Leone and returning its elected president to power will go

down in history as seminal

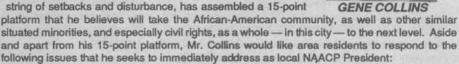
moments."

"Africa has lost a great son

September 1995.

Gene Collins for Las

Gene Collins, a Former State Assemblyman, who announced his candidacy for the office of Las Vegas NAACP President on May 6th, is sending out a call to the residents of Las Vegas. Mr. Collins, who pledges to embark on a drastic and dramatic turnaround of the Las Vegas NAACP Branch from its recent string of setbacks and disturbance, has assembled a 15-point



Have You Ever Been Harassed On Your Job Because of Your Sex, Age, Gender or the COLOR OF YOUR SKIN?

☐ Yes □ No

Have You or Any Member of Your Family Ever Experienced or Witnessed Any Form of Police Brutality?

□ No ☐ Yes

Have You or Your Neighbors Ever Experienced Any Unconscionable School Racial Incident That Should Not Have Occurred/Or School Incident That Was Not Handled Properly by School Officials?

☐ Yes

Have You or Any of Your Friends Been Unnecessarily Scrutinized and Then Subsequently Declined a Loan From a Bank or Credit Union from What You Believe May Have Been - Redlining/Stereotyping or Outright Discrimination?

□ No

Have You or Anyone You Know Ever Been Falsely Accused of SHOPLIFTING or Unfairly Harassed at Any of Our "Friendly" Neighborhood Malls, By Being Followed Around the Entire Time You Were Shopping?

□ No

Wouldn't You Like to Have the Opportunity to Become Involved in the Growth and Development of the Community College of Southern Nevada?

☐ Yes

Are You and Your Children Dissatisfied with Your Neighborhood Library System - Because the Books and Other Materials in Their Current Academic and Physical Condition Do Not Adequately Reflect the Diversity and Technology Of This Country?

□ No

Would You Like to See More Done, On a Statewide Basis, to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - For Instance Circulating a Petition Asking the City, County and State to Match Three Million Dollars (\$3M) to Build the Martin Luther King Performing Arts and Cultural Center, Which Would Seat Between 800 and 1000 People, in Honor of Dr. King?

□ No

Wouldn't You Like to Be Provided with More Information Relevant to the Community Tax Structure and Its Affects On Your Area Being Bestowed With Good Streets, Sewer, Transportation and Other Neighborhood Services That "Newer" Communities Enjoy? □ No

As a Licensed or Unlicensed Employee/ Professional Working for the Clark County School District, Have You Ever Been Singled Out and Subjected to an Unfair, Unwarranted and Unjust Evaluation or Demotion Because of Your Stance or Position on a Particular Controversial/Unpopular Issue?

☐ Yes □ No

If you answered YES to a large percentage of the preceding questions, Mr. Gene Collins, a forty-year resident and Former State Assemblyman has your best interests at heart. While a member of the Nevada Legislature, Mr. Collins sponsored the following bills:

A.B. 99 — Declared Martin Luther King, JR's. Birthday as a legal holiday

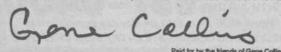
areas of Nevada, specifically the area termed "West Las Vegas."

A.B. 507 — Amended the City Charter of North Las Vegas to authorize the establishment of tax increment areas

A.B. 550 — Allowed Taxpayers to build block walls around their homes without any cost to the

Mr. Collins was one of the individuals instrumental in the legislative bill and succeeding program to construct and organize the West Las Vegas Library. Additionally, Mr. Collins is most proud of being one of the individuals who started the little league baseball program in his community.

If elected NAACP President, Gene Collins Will Continue to Make A Difference In This



A.B. 508 — Provided for the establishment of distinct benefited zones in certain depressed A.J.R. 28 — Urged Congress to Repeal the Federal Reserve Act.

