

ness unusual approach
had help to eradicate it.

Onitsha crisis:

ARMY, POLICE TO FIGHT INSECURITY

From SYLVESTER

IDOWU, Enugu

SENIOR Army and Police
Officers relocated to Enugu
for several hours of Tuesday
to review the joint operations
to bring normalcy to Onitsha,
Anambra State where there
had been a state of insecurity
since last Thursday.

The Police Headquarter's
team was led by the Deputy
Inspector General of Police,
Mr Mike Okoro while the Gen-
eral Officer Commanding the
82 Division of the Nigerian
Army, Major General
Abdulhafeez, represented
by Colonel Johnson Ochoga
attended the meeting at the
Army Divisional Headquar-

ters in Enugu to assess the
ongoing joint operations in
Onitsha.

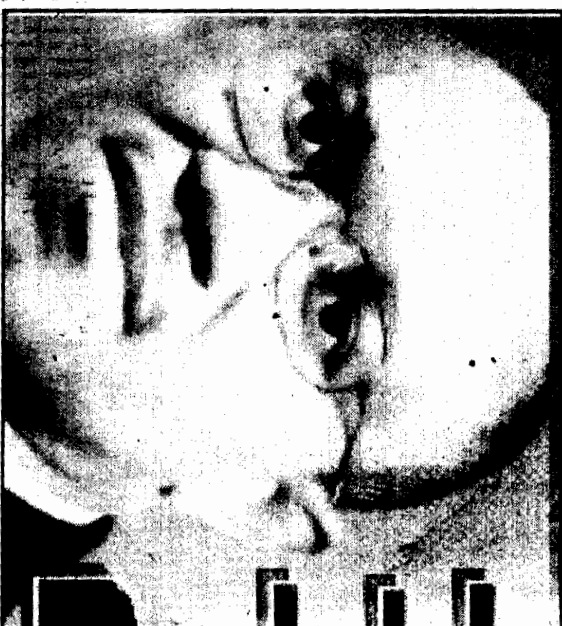
Some members of the
Movement for the Actualisa-
tion of the State of Biafra
[MASSOB] had unleashed
terror in the commercial city of
Onitsha since last
Thursday after an attempt by
the police to rout the town of
MASSOB members by a spe-
cial mobile police team from
Abuja.

The MASSOB members
since then continued to ter-
rorise the state leading to the
burning down of a police sta-
tion, an Armoured Personnel
Carrier [APC], killings of inno-
cent people including three

policemen.

Their activities led to the
head last Monday when they
invaded the town, killing
injured prison officials and
freed 22 prisoners
which forced the State Govern-
ment, Mr Peter Obi to request
for military presence to quell
the activities of the hoodlums.

Briefing the police
headquarter's team in Enugu,
the representative of the GOC,
Col. Johnson Ochoga said the
joint police-army operations
was already yielding results
and that the exercise would be



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sustained.

He said that the military was participating fully in the operations based on the directives it received from the appropriate authorities adding

"the commanders on the ground had been properly briefed".

In his remarks, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro described the disturbances in Onitsha as very unfortunate in view of the negative impact it makes on the nation's economy and image.

He commended the conduct of the joint operation so far noting that it was a classic example of an effective action to guarantee security adding "the army will always be joint stakeholder in peace and security.

DIG Okiro who condemned the activities of the hoodlums and their collaborators said

the problem does not augur well for the well being of the people of the state, and the nation in general

He said he would continue with necessary consultations with stakeholders in the efforts to enhance security in the area in addition to the ongoing action to enforce law and order in the state.

Mr Okiro was accompanied to the meeting by the Assistant Inspector General of Police for zone two, Mr Ademola Ajakaiye, the Enugu State Commissioner of Police, Mr Charles Dawodu and his Anambra State counterpart.

It will be recalled that the army deployed troops last Monday to participate in the efforts to curtail the disturbances and the security situation in Onitsha. The situation is said to be gradually returning to normalcy.