

The Seereer Resource Centre



**Countdown to
Gambian
independence**

**Transcribed by The Seereer Resource
Centre :
July 2014.**

"Countdown to Gambian independence" [in] BBC World Service [in] The Seereer Resource Centre. URL: www.seereer.com. Recorded on 17th February 1965 at Brikama, The Gambia. Transcribed by The Seereer Resource Centre : July 2014.

**History of The
Gambia :
Gambia
Independence
Day - 18
February 1965**

Title: *Countdown to Gambian independence*

Date or year (or approximate year of recording): 17th February 1965

Subject: Gambian historical event

On the eve of Gambia's Independence Day, ordinary Gambian citizens and dignitaries gathered at Brikama as they await midnight 18th February 1965 (the day which marks Gambia's independence). The Duke of Kent gave a speech in front of the Gambian people. There was great rejoice after the Duke's speech.

There was also an independence ceremony at McCarthy Square, Banjul, where the Duke of Kent accompanied by the Duchess of Kent handed the Constitutional Instruments of Independence to Dawda Jawara, who later became the first President of the Gambia. There was lots of dancing and celebration on that historic day.

Location: Brikama, the Gambia

Duration: 00:03:59 minutes

Source language: This audio is in English.

Target language: English

Medium: Audio file

Radio Station: BBC World Service

Speakers:

- The Duke of Kent

This transcript is also available in the following languages:

1. French
2. Seereer a Sinig (or *Seereer-Siin*)
3. Saafi-Saafi
4. Ndut (or *Ndoute*)

The Seereer Resource Centre

Tel: +44 20 8133 0517

E-mail: info@seereer.com

Web: www.seereer.com

Seereer 1st.

Preserving Seereer heritage for future generations.

© The Seereer Resource Centre. All rights reserved.

5. Sili-Sili (or *Palor*)
6. Noon (or *None*)
7. Laalaa (or *Lehar*)

Note: You can have your say about this audio by visiting [this page](#). Click the “post a comment” button at the bottom of the audio to express your views. Keep it clean and relevant.

Transcribed by: The Seereer Resource Centre

Translator/transcriptionist’s comments:

This is a time stamped transcript in Intelligent Verbatim. Each speaker change is time stamped and tracked by name. Inaudible words are also time stamped in brackets [] and highlighted in **red** with the word “inaudible” – for example: **[inaudible]**. This audio is not very clear. There is a lot of celebratory noise, clapping and people whispering or speaking aloud during the Duke’s speech. The quality of the tape recording is also not very clearly due to the age of the audio and type of machine used to record this audio. However, one can just make out what is being said if one listens carefully.

00:00:00	National anthem of the United Kingdom
00:00:29	Clapping.
00:00:39	End of national anthem and clapping.
00:00:40	<u>The Duke of Kent</u>
	This ceremony..., marks the combination of the peaceful and ordered evolution of The Gambia to form nationhood. And I feel very proud, that Her Majesty the Queen has entrusted me to act as her representative of this independent celebration.
00:01:05	This ceremony..., also marks the ending of Britain’s colonial responsibilities in West Africa. And it is for me, a heavy coincidence that in each of these independent ceremonies that had taken place on this coast, a member of my immediate family has been fortunate enough to represent the Queen.
00:01:31	When I was in Sierra Leone..., in 1961, I did not fear hope that there would be an opportunity for me to return to West Africa, and that my wife would be able to accompany me.
00:01:46	We are both very pleased and greatly honoured to be here. And would like you all to know, how deeply we appreciate your welcome, which The Gambia has given to us, since our arrival.

The Seereer Resource Centre

Tel: +44 20 8133 0517
E-mail: info@seereer.com
Web: www.seereer.com

Seereer 1st.

Preserving Seereer heritage for future generations.

© The Seereer Resource Centre. All rights reserved.

00:02:06	[Inaudible] from England, first came to your country..., as long as ago as 1587. And the first [inaudible] in this settlement in Africa, was established in the Great Gambian River of James Island in 1661.
00:02:26	Since those turbulent days, a friendship has developed between our two countries. Which I sincerely hope, will continue and flourish long into the future.
00:02:40	Gambia may not be large, but its people are renowned for their ability to live in peace together; for their natural friendliness and dignity; and for their great common sense and good humour.
00:02:57	These are attributes which many larger or more prosperous countries have not [inaudible] . For they are qualities which are desirable, and will continue to be desirable in maintaining the stability and fostering the progress of your country.
00:03:20	On this momentous day, in the centre of this great assembly of The Gambian people, are gathered many of your children. And I think it is appropriate that I should say a few words to them, and to all the young people of The Gambia.
00:03:40	Many of you will I hope, remember this great day all your lives and be able to [inaudible] the continuing determination to be worthy citizens of your lovely country.
00:03:59	<i>End of tape.</i>

Please cite this document as:

“*Countdown to Gambian independence*” [in] BBC World Service [in] The Seereer Resource Centre. URL: www.seereer.com. Recorded on 17th February 1965 at Brikama, The Gambia. Transcribed by The Seereer Resource Centre : July 2014.

The Seereer Resource Centre

Tel: +44 20 8133 0517
E-mail: info@seereer.com
Web: www.seereer.com

Seereer 1st.

Preserving Seereer heritage for future generations.

© The Seereer Resource Centre. All rights reserved.