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CREATOR: GRAYJK (GRAYJK@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

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SUBJECT: STAR Radio news 7/19 - 7/20/98

TO: Richard H. Kodl (Richard H. Kodl@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

STAR radio DAILY NEWS

Local news bulletin aired in Monrovia on Sunday, July 19, 1998

NATIONAL NEWS

Foreign Minister Monie Captan has accused some Liberians in the U. S. of undermining the National Conference. He said these Liberians are using the five Liberians now reported to be in The Gambia as an excuse.

Minister Captan made direct reference to a group called the Coalition of Progressive Liberians in the Americas. In a statement dated May 1998, the group made a call for a boycott of the national conference. It said it was calling for a boycott because government was not serious about genuine reconciliation and peace. It further described the conference as a reunion of what it called American-Liberians and their African-American relatives. The Liberian community of Rhode Island and Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas have both cited security reasons for their call. But President Taylor told journalists reconciliation has been put on the conference agenda. He said the three additional days to the conference would discuss matters of reconciliation.

President Charles Taylor has expressed concern about prison conditions in Liberia. The President described prison conditions in the country as

"terrible." He said the Justice Ministry will look into ways to improve prison conditions. President Taylor was speaking at his Congo Town residence. He observed that prisoners who haven't been to court will be made to go through the process to reduce the prison population.

President Charles Taylor says he believes the international community will in time respond to Liberia's development needs. Speaking at his Congo Town residence, President Taylor said Liberia will shortly begin to receive direct bilateral assistance from foreign governments.

President Taylor recently accused the international community of turning its back on Liberia. He repeated his earlier position that Liberia's friends have been slow in demonstrating their friendship. President Taylor called on Liberians to cultivate a spirit of self-reliance. He said there are some elementary things that Liberians can do for themselves.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson says peace and stability are crucial for attracting investment in Liberia. He said this will also encourage qualified Liberians to return home to contribute to the rebuilding process. The American civil rights activist observed that qualified Liberians are reluctant to return home. He said these Liberians must be encouraged to return through what he called improved signals. He did not elaborate. Rev. Jackson made the remarks at the Roberts International Airport shortly upon arrival. Rev. Jackson and party are in Liberia to attend the national conference. Rev. Jackson is U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Africa. The American civil rights activist and party were accorded a rousing welcome at the Roberts International

Airport in Margibi County. Other members of his party included Ambassador Howard Jeter. Ambassador Jeter is Bill Clinton's special envoy to Liberia.

The Liberian Government says ECOMOG is to shortly conduct a cordon and search operation in Monrovia and its environs. The government said this is to ensure that security remains intact in the city. The search operation by ECOMOG will be carried out in pursuit of warlike materials. The government is urging the public to report to ECOMOG or the Justice Ministry information on hidden arms and warlike materials. The government said persons in possession of arms or warlike materials should report them to ECOMOG or the police. It called on the public for maximum cooperation to ensure a secure environment.

A Grand Kru County Senator says human rights groups are enemies of the State. He said bad reports by human rights organizations are the cause for the delay in international assistance for reconstruction. Senator Thomas Nimely said human rights reports are painting a bad picture of the country. He added this was discouraging the international community from providing needed assistance to Liberia. Mr. Nimely wants human rights group to redirect their activities to seeking relief for disadvantaged Liberians and stop criticizing government. He was speaking at the graduation ceremony of the Mesurado International School.

A member of the House wants conservation issues included on the agenda of the national conference. Representative Zaiye Dehkee says development and environmental protection should be pursued. Mr. Dehkee said

delegates from rural areas should be given the opportunity to interact with conservationists and wildlife protectionists. Representative Dehkee is Chairman of the House Committee on the Environment. He said the exclusion of the environment from the conference agenda is an oversight.

Surrendered Sierra Leonean soldiers fighting along side ECOMOG have captured a strategic town in eastern Sierra Leone. The captured town, Kayima, links Kono District with three other districts in northern Sierra Leone. Kayima is on a major highway to Masingi and a hydro-electric plant at Bumbuna. ECOMOG Task Force Commander Maxwell Khobe told journalists in Freetown the success of the soldiers relieves thousand of displaced people in Masingi. Nearly forty-five thousand people are displaced in Masingi. General Khobe told Sierra Leoneans that some of the soldiers who cooperated with the junta were misled. He said many of them will be retrained to fight along side ECOMOG in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia have begun preparations for the arrival of their President. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah is expected in the country to participate in Liberia's Independence Anniversary activities. A spokesman says they have appealed to the Sierra Leonean Embassy to provide them with transportation to receive their President at the airport. Mr. Ebenezer Kemokai said they are preparing t-shirts and banners to give President Kabbah a rousing welcome. He said they would like for President Kabbah to visit some their camps during his visit. Mr. Kemokai said this will give the President first-hand information about the plight of Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia.

Meanwhile two Sierra Leonean refugees have died from hunger. The refugees died in Camp Alpha near Lofa Bridge in lower Lofa County. Mr. Kemokai complained that since the refugees were relocated at Camp Alpha no relief organization has catered to them. He is therefore urging LRRRC to relocate the refugees to a recognized camp in the country.

The Superintendent of Rivercess County has frowned on the use of traditional methods to investigate criminal matters. Superintendent Jasper Ben said cases of murder are above the jurisdiction of members of the Poro society. He said attempts by traditional leaders to investigate criminal matters were causing problems for local administrators. Mr. Ben said traditional leaders have often engaged in extra-judicial affairs.

The Rivercess Superintendent was reacting to the outcome of an investigation in which a man's death was blamed on witchcraft. The man was allegedly shot with a single barrel gun by one Sundaygar. He is reported to be in detention in Rivercess County.

Several health educators want breast feeding promoted across the country. The educators believe mothers who bottle feed their babies lack proper education about the health hazard to infants. They also stressed that breast feeding helps the mother space her children. The health educators were speaking at a two week national breast feeding workshop. The workshop trained more than twenty health workers in the techniques and concepts of breast feeding. It brought together several health workers from all parts of Liberia. Facilitators came from several medical institutions in the sub-region. It was organization by the Breast Feeding Advocacy Group, BAG, and funded by UNICEF.

STAR radio DAILY NEWS

Local news bulletin aired in Monrovia on Monday, July 20, 1998

NATIONAL NEWS

The conference on the future of Liberia is due to formally open in Monrovia today. About one thousand delegates from in and out of the country are expected to attend. Conference sources said delegates have already begun arriving in the city from the various counties and the United States. But delegates from rural Liberia are complaining of poor lodging arrangements. In separate interviews with STAR radio yesterday, many of the delegates said they have not received per diems. The delegates also spoke of transportation difficulties. But the conference bureau said arrangements have been made to transport delegates to and from conference sessions.

The National Conference coordinator says no per diem will be paid to delegates attending the conference. Dr. Romeo Horton said the number of delegates attending the conference has doubled to close to one thousand. Delegates from rural areas had earlier complained that they have not received lodging or per diem. But Dr. Horton said delegates would only be given housing and food. He said it will take some time to house all delegates. Speaking yesterday to STAR radio, Dr. Horton said only four hundred delegates were earlier expected. The conference coordinator said that because of seating problems, only two delegates from each

delegation will be allowed in the hall at a time. The Unity Conference Center reportedly has seating capacity of about five hundred.

Projects of the National Conference and the Independent Anniversary are nearly completed. The projects include renovation of the Unity Conference Center and the Centennial Pavilion. Speaking to STAR radio yesterday, the Director of the General Services Agency said the projects cost two and a half million U.S. dollars. Director Paul Mulbah said there was a slight increase in the cost due to limited time to finish them. Mr. Mulbah said Liberian and Lebanese companies were given contracts to do the renovations.

The head of the Baptist Church in Liberia had urged government officials to keep focused on the things that would bring development. Reverend Moses Roulhac said Liberia should do away with hypocrisy and deceit as a way of life. The head of the Liberia Baptist Convention regretted what he described as Liberians turning away from the way of God. Reverend Roulhac was delivering the sermon yesterday at an intercessory service to mark the start of the National Conference. He said no form of military might can compare with the wisdom of leaders who trust in God. Earlier the U.S. special envoy to Africa called on Liberians to take the lead in re-building Liberia. Rev. Jesse Jackson said Liberians must replace attitudes of conflict with virtues of reconciliation and development.

An American civil rights activist says his government is interested in expanding bi-material ties with Liberia. The Rev. Jesse Jackson said the

United States has a lot to do with Liberia's economic growth. He made the remarks Saturday at the Roberts International Airport shortly upon arrival in the country. Rev. Jackson is U.S. President, Bill Clinton's special envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa. The American civil rights activist and party are in country to participate in the national conference on the future of Liberia. Rev. Jackson said seven years of civil war have had a negative impact on Liberia's image abroad. He challenged Liberians to strive to regain the country's lost image. Rev. Jackson noted that positive moves towards democracy and human rights are fundamental to image building. At the same time, another black America diplomat says he welcomes the meeting of Liberians to discuss their future. President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Liberia, Howard Jeter, says he is pleased with progress been made towards reconciliation. Ambassador Jeter says the conference is an opportunity for Liberians to thrash out their difference in order to forge ahead.

Sixteen soldiers of the ousted military junta in Freetown were yesterday morning captured by ECOMOG. Their capture followed a tip-off which led ECOMOG to their hideout in Malama in the west end of Freetown. According to the ECOMOG Commander in the area, Lt. Col. Gabriel Hoieme, the rebels had been in the bushes committing armed robbery at night. Lt. Col. Hoieme said following an exchange of fire with the rebels yesterday morning they were rounded up and taken to the police. The captured men are now being interrogated. Meanwhile ECOMOG on Saturday captured a river in the diamond rich district of Kono. Reports say fifty rebels were killed during the battle for the area.

The West African Peace Keeping Force yesterday carried out a cordon and search operation in Monrovia. The search was aimed at ensuring the security of the city. The government of Liberia Saturday announced that ECOMOG would carry out the operation. Residents expressed happiness for the search, as the peace keepers moved from house to house in the various communities. There was also heavy ECOMOG presence at the check points in the city. Sources told STAR radio the presence of ECOMOG indicated their return to the check points. The source said ECOMOG will now man the check points jointly with Liberian government security. The peace keepers left the check points early this month due to a misunderstanding.

The Superintendent of Rivercess County says murder cases are above the jurisdiction of the Poro society. Mr. Jasper Ben said attempts by traditional leaders to investigate criminal cases were causing problems for local administrators. The Rivercess Superintendent was reacting to the outcome of an investigation in which a man's death was blamed on witchcraft. The man was allegedly shot with a single barrel gun by one Sundaygar. He is reported to be in detention in Rivercess County.

Several students of the A. M. Dogolitti College of Medicine are to participate in a one-month fellowship in Amsterdam, Holland. It will enable them to exchange experience in medical technology with their European counterparts. A source told STAR radio the sixteen thousand United States dollars required for the trip has been approved by President Charles Taylor. The trip takes place this week.

STAR radio, independent radio station transmitting since July 15, 1997
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CREATOR: GRAYJK (GRAYJK@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-AUG-1998 10:53:00.00

SUBJECT: UN Progress Report on Sierra Leone

TO: Richard H. Kodl (Richard H. Kodl@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
S/1998/750

12 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS
OBSERVER MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 19 of its resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, the Security Council requested me to submit an initial report within 30 days of the adoption of the resolution and every 60 days thereafter on the deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and its progress in carrying out its mandate, and also to inform the Council on plans for the later phases of the deployment of UNOMSIL when security conditions permit these to be implemented. The present report, which is submitted pursuant to that request, describes developments since my fifth report on the situation in Sierra Leone (S/1998/486) dated 9 June 1998.

2. The present report is also submitted in accordance with paragraph 10

of resolution 1162 (1998) of 17 April 1998 and paragraph 8 of resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998.

II. SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE

Activities of the Government of Sierra Leone

3. Since my last report, the Government of Sierra Leone has continued to strengthen its authority and improve its organization and functioning, including through the adoption, following a wide-ranging parliamentary debate, of a budget for the remainder of 1998. On 7 August, President Kabbah visited the provincial towns of Bo, Kenema and Makenie. Some 45 of the 52 paramount chiefs have returned to their districts in the south of the country.

4. Significant improvements have occurred in relations between Sierra Leone and Liberia. On 22 and 23 June, a Liberian delegation led by Senator Kekura Kpoto visited Freetown to deliver a special message from President Taylor to President Kabbah concerning ways to promote peace between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Mano River Union countries. The delegation also denied allegations that the Liberian Government was supporting the remnants of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), and expressed concern that some Liberian dissidents were reported to be planning to use Sierra Leone as a base from which to attack Liberia. At the conclusion of the meeting, President Kabbah issued a statement

reaffirming his commitment to subregional peace and security and calling for strict adherence to the existing non-aggression pact and good neighbourliness treaty contained in the Mano River Union Agreement.

5. On 1 July 1998, during my visit to Abuja, together with the President of Nigeria, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, I jointly convened a meeting between President Taylor and President Kabbah, the Heads of State of Liberia and Sierra Leone. The two Heads of State reached agreement at that meeting on a number of confidence-building measures to improve relations between their countries. The Presidents, inter alia, strongly condemned the continued rebel activities in Sierra Leone, as well as the horrendous atrocities committed there, and agreed to exchange official visits. The communique issued at the end of the meeting was circulated as document S/1998/629.

6. On 20 July 1998, President Kabbah paid a one-day visit to Monrovia at the written invitation of President Taylor to attend the Liberian National Reconciliation Conference. The meeting of the two Presidents was held in the presence of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America to Africa. In a joint communique issued after the meeting, President Taylor and President Kabbah again condemned all atrocities and violations of human rights committed by combatants in Sierra Leone against civilians, as well as the continued rebel activities in that country. They reaffirmed their commitment to non-aggression against the territorial integrity of each other's country and pledged to continue their cooperation towards peace and security in the subregion. Both leaders renewed their call to the

United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to deploy observer units on the Liberia/Sierra Leone border and agreed to coordinate border security activities. President Taylor accepted an invitation from President Kabbah to visit Sierra Leone at a date to be announced.

7. In a later development, the Government of Sierra Leone has denied any involvement in an alleged plot to overthrow the Government of Liberia, which has been widely reported in Monrovia.

8. On 25 July 1998, the Nigerian Government released the leader of RUF, Corporal Foday Sankoh, to Sierra Leonean custody in Freetown. The Government of Sierra Leone has now detained Corporal Sankoh and issued a public statement calling on his supporters, who are still fighting, to surrender to ECOMOG, to my Special Representative or to any religious organization by 8 August 1998. The Government statement called for an end to fighting and urged Sierra Leoneans to turn their attention and energies to the elimination of poverty, disease and illiteracy. In a television appearance with the Sierra Leonean Minister of Information, Corporal Sankoh appealed to the remnants of RUF to halt atrocities against the people of Sierra Leone and to surrender to United Nations observers or to the Military Observer Group of ECOWAS (ECOMOG). A subsequent Government statement issued on 3 August reiterated the 8 August deadline for the amnesty. There has been no significant response to the Government's call.

9. Following the visit to Sierra Leone of my Special Representative for

Children and Armed Conflict, Mr. Olara A. Otunnu, in May, the Government has accorded special attention, and has welcomed efforts by United Nations agencies, to promoting the welfare, rights and protection of children and to addressing challenges posed by the "youth crisis" and the high growth rate of the population. In July, Vice-President Albert Joe Demby publicized the 1998 edition of the UNICEF report, The Progress of Nations, while the Minister of Finance, Development and Economic Planning, Mr. James Jonah, delivered a radio address on World Population Day, in which he highlighted the Government's intention to rehabilitate and reconstruct all war-affected areas, increase the rate of economic growth faster than population growth and reduce poverty. Activities of the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States and the military and security situation in Sierra Leone

10. Since the end of June, the military and security situation in Sierra Leone has improved somewhat as reports of atrocities committed by elements of the former junta have markedly declined. Despite the onset of the rainy season, ECOMOG, has maintained its pressure on Kailahun district, the remaining stronghold of the former junta in the eastern part of the country. At the same time, ECOMOG positions in Koidu, also in eastern Sierra Leone, have repeatedly come under mortar attack during the last few weeks and the situation in the north-east remains volatile and unpredictable, as was shown by the rebels' capture and brief occupation of Kabala.

11. Security in Freetown has generally been good. However, on 19 July 1998, a gun battle lasting approximately one hour broke out in Freetown

between ECOMOG and a band of 15 men described as robbers. The men were all captured the same day without bloodshed.

12. In the countryside, elements of the former junta are concentrated around Kailahun and Koidu in relatively large numbers, while smaller groups have been operating in northern and central Sierra Leone. Sometimes these groups have harassed ECOMOG units and the civilian population, perpetrating atrocities and destroying property, but on a much smaller scale than was the case in June. Attacks by ECOMOG, including air strikes, are thought to have inflicted significant casualties on the rebels and broken them up into smaller groups, curtailing their activities. Reported shortages of food and ammunition among the rebels have increased the risk that they could attack ECOMOG convoys and isolated settlements in order to resupply themselves. The southern part of the country and the area around Freetown in the west have been calm, except for the incident described above.

13. On 27 July 1998, apparently after seizing weapons and ammunition in an attack on ECOMOG units at Bendugu in north-eastern Sierra Leone, junta supporters attacked ECOMOG troops in the town of Kabala. The attack, which was preceded by a feigned offer to surrender, was well-coordinated and launched from three sides. The rebels succeeded in taking the town and temporarily driving out the ECOMOG defenders. At about the same time, the rebels attacked a civilian bus about 10 kilometres south of Kabala, killing seven passengers.

14. By 31 July, ECOMOG troops moved back in force into Kabala as rebel

forces withdrew. The rebels caused extensive property damage, including the destruction of some 200 houses, plundered the town and extorted money from the civilian population, whom they threatened to use as human shields in the event of a counter-attack. No mutilations have been reported.

15. During the past few weeks, ECOMOG has inducted fresh troops into the Kenema sector in south-eastern Sierra Leone, with a view to reinforcing its presence near Kailahun. The deployment of an additional brigade, comprising three battalions, has enabled ECOMOG to mount more aggressive patrols, at times in conjunction with the Sierra Leonean Civil Defence Force. ECOMOG has also reinducted former Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces (RSMLF) personnel, amounting to approximately three battalions, or 2,500 men, alongside its own troops to assist with the protection of supply lines and, in some cases, in combat duties. The provision of logistical assistance to ECOMOG, thanks to the bilateral contribution of the United States of America, has helped to improve operational capacity. ECOMOG has also been withdrawing exhausted troops with a view to rotating them. Nonetheless, ECOMOG, with an estimated 10,000 troops in theatre, is still overstretched and in need of significant additional logistical support, in order to contain the rebels and restore and maintain order in the eastern and northern parts of the country.

16. While the Civil Defence Force is nominally under the command and control of ECOMOG, reports continue to be received of unruly or criminal behaviour on the part of some members of the Force outside their own

home districts. Strains that developed between ECOMOG and the Civil Defence Force in some places appear to have been successfully resolved or contained through the intervention of senior commanders. Some members of the Force have also been accused of human rights violations and criminal acts, including looting, confiscation of vehicles and civil disturbances, although allegations of summary killings and the torture of prisoners have dropped sharply since the end of May, apparently as a result of intervention by the Government and ECOMOG. The Civil Defence Force has made a commitment to end its practice of recruiting and initiating child soldiers, who comprise a high proportion of their ranks and who have been sent into combat.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Deployment of UNOMSIL

17. Pursuant to the creation of UNOMSIL by the Security Council by resolution 1181 (1998), I wrote to the President of the Council on 16 July 1998 to inform him of the countries that were contributing observers to the mission (see S/1998/673 and S/1998/674) and of the appointment of Brigadier-General Subhash C. Joshi (India) as Chief Military Observer. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 1181 (1998), I took advantage of the presence of President Kabbah at the special conference on Sierra Leone, held at Headquarters on 30 July 1998, to propose to him the terms of a status of mission agreement. As I informed the President of the Security Council in my letter of 3 August 1998 (S/1998/714), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra

Leone, Mr. Sama Banya, at once replied indicating his Government's acceptance. As I also mentioned in my 3 August letter, on the basis of the Government of Sierra Leone's programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, issued to participants at the special conference, I have written to the Chairman of ECOWAS proposing arrangements by which ECOMOG would be responsible for the security of United Nations personnel in Sierra Leone.

18. In accordance with resolution 1181 (1998), the eight military liaison personnel already deployed in Sierra Leone since May 1998 pursuant to resolution 1162 (1998) have now been redesignated United Nations military observers. The additional 32 officers who are in the process of being deployed, including those in the first phase, are from China, Egypt, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia. As of 10 August 1998, a total of 26 officers have been deployed in Sierra Leone, with more to come over the next few days (see annex). The medical unit is expected to arrive in the country by 20 August.

19. As indicated in my report of 9 June and as outlined in the Government plan mentioned in paragraph 17 above, one of the priority tasks of the military observers, in accordance with the mandate set out in resolution 1181 (1998), is to monitor the demobilization of former combatants already disarmed by ECOMOG and concentrated in secure areas of the country, primarily at Lungi. In addition, in order to continue to monitor and report on the military and security situation, two observers

are already deployed at Bo and two at Makeni, with the headquarters of ECOMOG brigades based there.

20. The Chief Military Observer and his staff will continue to be based at Freetown and an observer team will cover the area around the capital, including Hastings. The largest deployment outside Freetown will be at Lungi, with smaller teams deployed to the ECOMOG brigade headquarters at Bo, Kenema and Makeni, as the security situation permits and as the Government makes progress in the implementation of its disarmament and demobilization plan. Further deployments are planned in due course to cover locations in the north, south and centre of the country, co-deployed with ECOMOG units, including in Sumbuya, Sulima, Zimmi, Joru and Kabala. Eventually, as order is restored to the parts of the country where fighting has been taking place and subsequent phases of deployment take place, it is envisaged that United Nations observers would also be co-deployed with ECOMOG units at Kailahun and Koidu.

21. As I informed the Council in my report of 9 June (S/1998/486, paras. 78-79), I have pursued with President Taylor the possibility of an eventual co-deployment of United Nations military observers with ECOMOG troops at the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. This proposal was reiterated in the communiqués following the meetings between President Taylor and President Kabbah at Abuja on 1 July 1998 and at Monrovia on 20 July 1998. My Special Representative will, at the appropriate time, dispatch a small team of observers from Freetown to examine the feasibility of such a deployment and I will revert to the Council accordingly.

22. In accordance with resolution 1162 (1998), a civilian police adviser, Deputy Commissioner Maritz du Toit (Namibia), was deployed in Sierra Leone in July. Following the adoption of resolution 1181 (1998), four more advisers will be deployed as soon as possible. Their role will be to assist in restoring the confidence of the Government and people of Sierra Leone in the police force, which incurred widespread public contempt for its role in supporting the junta, and to advise the Government on training and re-equipment needs. The United Nations civilian police will work closely with a team of police advisers deployed at the request of the Government from Commonwealth countries.

23. Since his arrival, Deputy Commissioner du Toit has established close relations with the Government and with his counterparts and has paid extensive visits to Sierra Leonean police stations within and outside the capital. He has also met with the Commonwealth police advisers to discuss cooperation between the Commonwealth and the United Nations in the conduct of their respective mandates.

Special Conference on Sierra Leone

24. As outlined in my report of 9 June 1998 (S/1998/486, para. 64), on 30 July 1998 I convened a high-level conference at Headquarters to mobilize assistance for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan, for the provision of logistical support to ECOMOG, for immediate humanitarian needs and for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Sierra Leone. The conference was preceded by an

organizational meeting on 24 June.

25. President Kabbah, accompanied by the Minister of Finance, Development and Economic Planning, Mr. James Jonah, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sama Banya, made a statement before the Conference, setting forth his plans for national reconciliation and rehabilitation, including improvements in internal security and the Government's plan for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Sierra Leonean former combatants. Representatives of some 55 countries, including the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Gambia, Guinea and Liberia, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa and the Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States of America attended the Conference. Other participants included the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, as well as the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS. United Nations specialized agencies and the relevant departments also sent representatives. The ECOMOG Force Commander, General Timothy Shelpidi, addressed the Conference on ECOMOG's needs.

26. Participants agreed on the need to establish an international contact group to mobilize and coordinate further support for Sierra Leone. I am presently reporting in greater detail on the conference, directly to the President of the Security Council, in a letter to be circulated as a document of the Council. IV. DISARMAMENT AND

DEMOBILIZATION

27. In a letter dated 11 August 1998 (S/1998/741), the Government of Sierra Leone conveyed to the President of the Security Council the programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants adopted by the Government of Sierra Leone. The programme describes in detail the institutional structures established by the Government to carry out its provisions, the financial management arrangements, the implementation schedule and the roles of UNOMSIL and ECOMOG in the reinsertion and reintegration of former combatants. The disarmament process will be carried out by ECOMOG, with the monitoring of UNOMSIL, in accordance with its mandate as set out in resolution 1181 (1998).

28. The essentials of the Government's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan were described in my report of 9 June (S/1998/486, paras. 53-62). The objective of the exercise is to consolidate the security of the State through the disarming, demobilization and reintegration into society of an estimated total of 33,000 former combatants (8,000 RSLMF and RUF and 25,000 CDF) in three phases between July 1998 and June 2001, at an estimated cost of \$33.6 million, of which \$17.3 million would be required for phase one. It is anticipated that the first phase would comprise the demobilization of the disarmed former RSLMF and RUF personnel now in detention and an estimated 5,000 CDF combatants. Particular emphasis will be devoted to the psychosocial reintegration of former child combatants from all sides.

29. The programme will be implemented under the guidance of the National Committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, under the chairmanship of President Kabbah and comprising representatives of the Government, ECOMOG, donors and my Special Representative on behalf of the United Nations community. The Committee will operate, in collaboration with other Government departments, donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), through an Executive secretariat responsible for overall programme planning and implementation, as well as the transparent and accountable administration of the programme and the monitoring and evaluation of its progress.

30. Following the formal adoption by the Government of the programme, the National Committee has commenced work and the members of the Executive secretariat, which will be assisted by a technical adviser, have been nominated. On 16 July 1998, a team representing the Committee, including the Ministers of the Interior and Information, the National Security Adviser and my Special Representative, visited the camp site at Lungi where more than 4,000 disarmed former members of RSLMF are currently detained by ECOMOG, awaiting demobilization and reintegration. The object of the visit was to explain the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process to the disarmed men and to the local community. Similar visits to other locations are planned for the future.

31. RSLMF has effectively been disbanded and is in a state of disgrace as a result of its participation in the illegal military coup of May 1997 and the subsequent junta rule. Though consideration is being given

to reconstituting the Sierra Leone armed forces, it is considered unlikely that many of the ex-RSLMF personnel will be accepted for membership in it. The men detained at Lungi appeared to be well-treated, disciplined and receptive to the prospect of demobilization and rehabilitation. They were also aware of the intense hostility felt towards them by the general public and none have attempted to escape. Recently, some of the former RSLMF personnel have been reinducted into the ECOMOG force to assist in military operations.

32. One aspect of the reintegration process that has given cause for concern is the hostile attitude of the general public to former RSLMF personnel. Resentment at the atrocities inflicted by the junta and its supporters is so widespread as to pose a threat to the physical safety of anyone associated with the junta. As I have reported earlier, a number of revenge killings have been reported throughout the country since the recapture of Freetown in February. My Special Representative will assist the Government in carrying out a vigorous sensitization and education campaign to increase public acceptance of former army personnel undergoing reintegration, an effort that could also be supported by donor contributions.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS

Abuses committed during and since the junta period

33. The human rights adviser working with my Special Representative for Sierra Leone has continued to compile accounts of atrocities committed

both during and after the period of junta rule. Though some of these have yet to be rigorously examined, there is strong evidence of the systematic and widespread perpetration of multiple forms of human rights abuse against the civilian population, including rape. In recent weeks, elements of the former junta have continued to shell population centres such as Koidu and Daru and have used civilians as human shields in their military operations. There have been numerous instances of arbitrary execution, including of women and children, followed in some cases by mutilation of the bodies.

34. Though incidents of mutilation appear to have greatly declined since the end of June, it is feared that for each of the 600 or so persons attacked since March 1998 who survived and sought medical attention, at least 4 others are either dead or unaccounted for. The victims of these attacks are still making their way in small numbers to medical centres.

35. A survey of 9 of Sierra Leone's 150 chiefdoms indicates that some 700 civilian war-related deaths have occurred since February, including 200 in one village, Yifin, in late April. About 1,600 people have suffered war-related injuries in these chiefdoms since February, of whom 30 per cent are children. In Koidu, a reliable source has stated that 663 bodies were buried following the fighting in the area in mid-June. A significant percentage of the dead were women and children. At the same time, the killing of some 44 of the 144 paramount chiefs during that period indicates a deliberate attempt to target them.

36. The rebels are estimated to hold several thousand civilian captives,

including women and children. They are used as porters, human shields and for forced sexual activity. Abductions continue to be reported in the north. It is believed that many RUF/AFRC fighters were themselves abducted as children and subjected to brutal initiation ceremonies.

37. Rebel forces tend to destroy property and homes in the villages they attack. Though no precise figures are available, there are indications of extensive damage to the housing stock in all areas that they have ravaged. The study of the 9 chiefdoms referred to above found that 1,619 homes had been destroyed. A survey of 3 other chiefdoms identified 600 destroyed houses and, on 12 July alone, in a village near Masingbi, some 40 houses were destroyed. As noted above, the rebels also destroyed property in Kabala at the end of July.

38. The rebel campaign of terror and their military activities have resulted in the displacement of at least 350,000 people since February. Some 250,000 of these are now in Guinea and Liberia and the remainder are internally displaced in Sierra Leone. The persistence of the rebellion not only prevents their return, but also causes grave humanitarian problems for a significant element of the displaced population, as described in more detail below. Treason trials and the administration of justice 39. The State is prosecuting 58 persons in the regular courts on a range of charges including treason, murder and arson, and two further trials are scheduled to begin soon. All defendants, if found guilty, face the possibility of the death penalty. The trials are proceeding against a background of widespread public anger and a desire for quick justice.

40. The court martial of 38 soldiers has begun before a judicial panel comprising Sierra Leonean army officers and presided over by a Judge Advocate who is an ECOMOG officer. Early concerns regarding procedure were speedily rectified by the Government after they had been raised by UNOMSIL, which continues to monitor both the courts martial and the proceedings in the regular courts. UNOMSIL is also continuing to persuade the Government to establish a channel for judicial appeals from court martial findings.

41. The Government concedes that the judicial system in Sierra Leone is entirely inadequate. Outside Freetown, the courts are not functioning at all and the traditional court system has collapsed. Sustained support will be needed to restore the judicial system in keeping with Sierra Leone's distinguished legal traditions.

42. There are six functioning prisons in Sierra Leone, but prisoners are also held in an unverifiable number of other facilities, including military camps. Most detainees in civilian facilities are being held pursuant to the emergency powers legislation introduced by the Government shortly after its restoration in March 1998. Conditions in many facilities are overcrowded and unsanitary and the food and medical care are inadequate. About 2,000 prisoners are being held in Freetown.

43. Reliable reports are being regularly received of poor discipline within the Civil Defence Force. In various locations throughout the country they have been accused of harassing the local population and

engaging in extortion. It has also been reported that the initiation of new members, including children between the ages of 15 and 17, occurred near Magburaka during the third week of July. ECOMOG has established a complaints procedure to investigate any allegations of harassment of the local population by ECOMOG troops.

44. UNOMSIL has commenced a human rights technical cooperation needs assessment and has already identified widespread requirements, many of which should be addressed as a matter of urgency. These include the need for human rights education for government officials, traditional leaders, police officers, teachers of civic education, lawyers, journalists and NGO personnel. It is also necessary to provide technical support to the Government and the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights to facilitate the application of human rights principles to State policy and practice. United Nations military observers will also receive training in aspects of international humanitarian law relevant to their duties.

VI. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

45. The humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone continues to give cause for concern, especially in the light of the poor response to the Inter-Agency Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance to Sierra Leone. To date, only 5 per cent of the \$20.5 million requested has been received.

Humanitarian organizations in Sierra Leone continue to face fundamental questions on the modalities for the delivery of relief assistance in an environment characterized by unpredictable hostilities and systematic

human rights abuses. The effort to balance the rights of civilians in need of assistance with the requisite level of operational security has required the constant review and modification of the United Nations and NGO codes of conduct and protocols for humanitarian agencies operating in Sierra Leone, in order to reflect the current situation.

46. Despite the ongoing debate, humanitarian assistance continues to have a significant impact on the dire health and nutritional status of hundreds of thousands of war-affected Sierra Leoneans. The most significant humanitarian activities since my last report include efforts to address the serious humanitarian crisis at Masingbi in north central Sierra Leone, the influx of spontaneous returnees from Liberia and the repatriation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees. The United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit in Freetown now estimates that the number of internally displaced persons since the ECOMOG intervention in February 1998 has grown to more than 166,000. The recent clashes between rebel forces and ECOMOG around Kabala have provoked further displacements.

47. A rapid nutritional assessment carried out in Masingbi by the NGO, Action Contre la Faim, for children under the age of five revealed a global malnutrition rate of 39 per cent. Owing to insecurity in the Masingbi area during July, humanitarian organizations were forced to suspend operations and withdraw to Makeni. However, the United States NGO, CARE, succeeded in distributing assistance to more than 16,000 beneficiaries. Internally displaced persons continue to flow into

Masingbi at a rate estimated at between 50 and 100 persons a day.

48. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is supporting the health care delivery system in Masingbi as well as in western Kono district, where they are providing drugs and basic medical equipment. The latest data on morbidity from Masingbi and Kono district have shown that the measles outbreak that was prevalent in the area is now under control as a result of the vaccination campaign carried out by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

49. Masingbi remains a critical focus for humanitarian intervention in terms of shelter for the current rainy season and coordination of other sectoral activities. The NGO, Concern Worldwide, has recently agreed to support shelter activities, while UNICEF and Action Contre la Faim will collaborate on water and sanitation matters. Food distributions by CARE and health activities by UNICEF, NGOs and the Government have had a significant impact in contributing to reducing the death rate in Masingbi and its environs from 899 deaths during June to 29 in July.

50. A joint Government, UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) mission to Pujehun district in southern Sierra Leone has confirmed that there has been an influx of returnees from Liberia, who are thought to be crossing the border at the rate of some 90 per day. The most urgent needs of the returnees are food, health and shelter, which are to some extent being met by WFP and by NGOs.

51. UNHCR has continued to repatriate Sierra Leonean refugees to Freetown. A total of some 7,500 Sierra Leoneans, mainly from Guinea and Gambia, have been assisted in returning home. Furthermore, it is planned to bring 3,000 Sierra Leoneans home by air from Guinea during the month of August. UNHCR has also repatriated some 440 Liberian refugees from Sierra Leone.

52. A United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit database has been established to detail the condition of more than 166,000 internally displaced persons, the number of people displaced since the ECOMOG intervention in February 1998. However, this figure represents only a portion of the total number of internally displaced persons in the country. UNHCR estimates that, during the same period, more than 250,000 Sierra Leoneans have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

53. A mission to Kabala, undertaken only days before the 27 July attack, estimated that some 18,000 civilians were residing in the town, including a large number of internally displaced persons from Kono district. As a result of the hostilities, unconfirmed reports indicate that the majority of the civilians were displaced to villages to the north and north-west of Kabala. It has been reported that large numbers of civilians were abducted from Kabala, as has been the practice of the RUF in the past. Furthermore, all reports indicate that all relief goods, medical supplies and logistics for humanitarian efforts were looted or destroyed during the brief occupation. Now that the situation has calmed, the humanitarian community is assessing the damage and making efforts to meet the needs.

VII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

54. The decision by the Security Council to create UNOMSIL and to expand its functions has been warmly welcomed by the Government and people of Sierra Leone, and the early signing of the status of mission agreement between the Government and UNOMSIL has also been of great assistance in providing a firm basis for our activities there. The adoption by the Government of Sierra Leone of a comprehensive programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, containing clearly defined roles for ECOMOG and the United Nations, has set the tone for UNOMSIL's future efforts.

55. The deployment of the first phase of UNOMSIL's 70 military observers and their equipment is also well under way. I am grateful to the troop-contributing countries for the dispatch with which they have acted in making these personnel available.

56. In my report of 9 June (para. 69), I identified three criteria which would govern subsequent deployments of military observers: the security situation, the progress of implementation of the Government's disarmament and demobilization plan and the availability of the necessary logistical equipment and resources. As I indicated then, I am keeping all three criteria under very close review and will keep the Council informed of all relevant developments while preparing for the next phase of the deployment. I am heartened by the progress made by ECOMOG in improving the security situation in the countryside,

especially in eastern Sierra Leone, and renew my call to donors to contribute to ECOMOG's logistical requirements.

57. In this context, I am gratified by the success of the special conference on Sierra Leone, held at Headquarters on 30 July 1998, and look forward to working closely with the international contact group to be established to coordinate further support for Sierra Leone. In the meantime, I reiterate my call to donors to contribute to the Inter-Agency Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance to Sierra Leone in order to assist Sierra Leoneans in meeting their most basic and urgent needs.

58. The sharp reduction in human rights violations perpetrated by elements of the former junta since the end of June is to be welcomed, but I remain deeply concerned about the plight of innocent civilians in the country, who may still be suffering from the depredations of the rebel forces or at risk from future attacks. In parallel with the efforts being made by ECOMOG to restore law and order throughout the countryside, I continue to believe that every effort should be made to end the threat posed by the rebels.

59. For this reason, I believe that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan adopted by the Government, and to be implemented with the assistance of ECOMOG and UNOMSIL, represents the best hope in the immediate future for consolidating the stability of the country and bolstering the authority of the Government throughout the territory of Sierra Leone. I therefore reiterate the plea I made on 30 July at the special conference for the donor community to lend every possible

assistance to the Government in carrying out its plan. I welcome the commitment of the Government and the Civil Defence Force not to recruit children under the age of 18 as soldiers or to send them into combat, and urge them to implement their undertaking to demobilize any children currently under arms as soon as possible.

60. The development of technical capacity by the Government in the field of human rights deserves support. The results of a technical cooperation needs assessment performed by the office of my Special Representative reveal training needs. I encourage donors to assist the Government in meeting these needs.

61. Pursuant to resolution 1181 (1998), I will continue to keep the situation in Sierra Leone under close review and report to the Council on developments there and on the progress made by UNOMSIL.

62. I would like to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Mr. Francis G. Okelo, to the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier Subhash C. Joshi, and to the civilian and military personnel of UNOMSIL for the efforts they are continuing to make to deploy the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone in accordance with the mandate provided by the Security Council.

ANNEX

The United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

Contributions as at 10 August 1998

Country Currently in position China 3 Egypt - India 5 Kenya 2 Kyrgyzstan
- New Zealand 2 Pakistan 5 Russia 5 United Kingdom 2 Zambia 2 26*

* In addition to the Chief Military Observer, India.

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SUBJECT: Interview with R. Johnson when in US

TO: Richard H. Kodl (Richard H. Kodl@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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September 22, 1998

HEADLINE: Taylor Not The Right Material To Bring Reconciliation

DATELINE: Atlanta

BYLINE: George H. Nubo

Atlanta - During his recent visit to the United States to seek medical attention, The Perspective had the opportunity to interview Gen. Roosevelt Johnson, former factional leader of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO-J). Gen. Johnson offered his views on the Liberian civil war that killed over 250,000 hapless Liberians, and on current developments in Liberia.

TP: What are your positions regarding the turn of events specifically regarding the Dokie's murder, Camp Johnson Road shooting and the mysterious disappearance of seven of your former commandos?

Gen. Johnson: With reference to the Dokie situation, I think all of you followed the trend of developments as they happened. In the first place,

we condemned the brutal murder of Dokie and his family... and then subsequently the trial. We also called on the government and the human rights organizations in Liberia and outside of Liberia to bring pressure to bear on the government that the killers of the Dokie family be brought to justice.

After the death of the Dokies, and the deaths of several other persons who were murdered before the Dokies... I reiterated that this government that came to power after the election did not come to power through the constitution. The constitution was sidelined. Because of the events that we found ourselves in at the time, ECOWAS and the international community deemed it necessary to work out a plan. The plan they worked out to resolve the Liberian conflict is the ECOWAS Peace Plan. Out of this ECOWAS Peace Plan produced the Abuja Accords. The Abuja Accord states three basic cardinal issues: Disarmament, elections, and restructuring of the army and the security apparatus. I know you all, no doubt, agree that the security apparatus is the basic foundation for lasting peace in that country. Unfortunately, the NPP-led Taylor government, which was signatory to the accord, has hijacked the last part of the Abuja agreement and has refused for it to be implemented. So we raised the concern that ECOMOG/ECOWAS should be allowed to restructure the army and that did not go too well with Mr. Taylor because he wanted to have his own way to continue to murder the people. And so he decided to go after me - "let's get rid of the man who's doing all this talking". And that was why they made the attempt.

TP: With respect to this Abuja Accord, since Mr. Taylor has defied the

agreement and has insisted on patterning the military and the security forces with his former fighters, we wonder whether there is any discussion between yourself and other former factional leaders as to what should be done about this.

Gen. Johnson: Well, I had discussion with a former faction leader. But I think the issue is the document which is the evidence. It is unfortunate that Mr. Taylor is talking about his constitutional rights that he has the jurisdiction to restructure the Liberian army. It is unfortunate because if we are talking about the constitution of Liberia, then Harry Moniba (Vice President of Liberia during Doe administration) should become the president of Liberia. But the constitution was sidelined by the ECOWAS Peace Plan out of which Abuja Accord came from, and it was the Abuja Agreement that brought Mr. Taylor to power. Now, legally if you implement part of the agreement and leave out another portion of the agreement, that document becomes null and void. So we are saying, in accordance with the terms that we agreed on, that the spirit of the Abuja Agreement must be maintained.

TP: So what is ECOWAS position on this issue with respect to implementing the provisions of the Abuja Accord?

Gen. Johnson: The former field commander, Gen. Malu, has been very vocal about this issue, insisting that ECOMOG must be allowed to restructure the Liberia army. That didn't go well with Mr. Taylor. He started insulting Gen. Malu and accusing Nigeria. And even the present field commander, Brig. Gen. Shelphidi, has been very vocal on the issue too.

But Mr. Taylor is so stubborn. So he does not want to do it.

TP: So where does this leave us since Mr. Taylor consistently reneges on this agreement - what does that mean for Liberia?

Gen. Johnson: It's very dangerous. It's dangerous because people will not sit supinely and allow themselves to be slaughtered like chickens. Several people who Mr. Taylor perceived as enemies have been slaughtered or murdered like that - even quite recently you learned of seven of my security guards who were abducted and murdered. We believe that after elections, there should have been some signal to every Liberian that it is now time to put down the guns and try to reconcile, console ourselves, and reconstruct our country. But it is unfortunate that Mr. Taylor does not see it that way. It is important for the international community which has invested a whole lot in Liberia, and all peace-loving Liberians to bring pressure to bear on Mr. Taylor so that these things will stop - because they are not healthy for the nation.

TP: Have you made any representation to ECOMOG/ECOWAS with respect to the abduction and the mysterious disappearance of the former loyalists of yours?

Gen. Johnson: Yes, my people on the ground and their parents have complained to the government and requested the government to have them returned immediately. I have complained to ECOMOG which represents ECOWAS on the ground, I have complained to the U.S. Embassy, and we have also taken the matter to Mr. Howard Jeter, President Clinton's Special

Envoy to Liberia. Plans are under way for another meeting with Mr.

Jeter. We've communicated to the Chairman of ECOWAS and we are waiting for the result.

TP: Many Liberians believe that the only way the country can move forward, and the wounds created by the war be healed, and our differences reconciled is for the perpetrators in the war to be brought to justice. What is your position?

Gen. Johnson: I have advocated long before now that an international court or tribunal be established so that those who perpetrated criminal acts against humanity during the Liberian civil conflict could be tried.

It is unfortunate that at the time people continued to call some of us who were involved in the war as warlords. And I offered to be the first person to appear before the tribunal. I have justification - I have never gone on the offensive, I never brought war into Liberia, I was on the defensive - to defend my life and the lives of our people and we have demonstrated that. We didn't go into that war because we wanted power, we went into it because we wanted our country to be free of arms and to save the lives of our people. And so if this is an offense, if this is a crime that we have committed by defending ourselves and the nation, then of course we stand accused and prepared to stand the consequences. We think that, just as it was done in Bosnia and other areas, an international trial supposed to be carried out for those people who brought war into the country and destroyed several thousands lives.

TP: Gen Johnson, most Liberians as well as the international community believe that stability in Liberia depends on reconciling our differences, restoring trust in one another and working to rebuild our country, apparently the situation on the ground suggests otherwise - what do you think will be essential to let these things happen?

Gen. Johnson: Look, the only person who is causing the problem is Charles Taylor... We have shown by the role that we have played in this conflict to all Liberians and to the international community and we demonstrated that even to the time of the elections. We were no member of any political party, and we have achieved our goal because we said Mr. Taylor should put the arms down and go to the ballot box. And since he agreed to go to the ballot box, for us, the war was over. That was our limitation. Even when he appointed us as minister of Rural Development, only 2% of the national budget was allocated to the ministry. We told them the only thing we want is to demonstrate that we are sincere for stability, and we do not want any witch-hunting. I think it is our (Liberians and peace-loving people of other nations) responsibility to bring pressure to bear on Mr. Taylor that these killings should be stopped.

TP: Many people have given their own views as to what is the cause and result of the civil war in our country. Some feel that the civil war showed that those of you who are "country-people" are incapable of ruling Liberia because you are polarized by ethnicity. What is your own view about this statement? They say country people went after President Doe and that was the basis of the war.

Gen. Johnson: I disagree with that. The so-called country people you are referring to are competent and qualified to run the government. And I think Mr. Doe demonstrated that. During Doe era there was very fast infrastructure construction all over the country. Those who visited Liberia in 1984, or 1985 can attest to that. It was not the natives against natives - it was the few heads of Congo-people who wanted to come back to Liberia and apply the divide and conquer method. What these few Congo people did was to knock the heads of country people together, and before the country people realized, it was too late. We should all realize that Liberia belongs to all Liberians and there is no way that you can marginalize one tribe. What we need now is reconciliation and reconstruction, but Mr. Taylor is not the right material to do that. He has shown the Liberian people that he's not the right material. And I think it is time for him to step down. Instead of uniting us, they are killing us.

TP: So, Gen. Johnson, are you saying that if the killing continues, and Mr. Taylor continues to renege on the Abuja Accord, he must be asked to step down?

Gen. Johnson: Exactly!

TP: Speaking of reconciliation, I wonder whether there is any efforts between groups (the Krahn people and the Nimba people) so as to have some conversation between the two groups. Most Liberians believe that the two groups settling their differences may help the larger Liberian

community to follow suit. Is there any discussion between Grand Gedeh and Nimba with respect to this issue?

Gen. Johnson: Believing that the war was a tribal war between Grand Gedeans and the Nimbaians is like falling into trap of the divide and rule tactics. As far as I know, there isn't any problem between Nimba and Grand Gedeh. Since my arrival to the States, Mr. Harry Nyuan, Dorliae and other people have been visiting me. Even when I was in Ghana, Dorliae family and the late Sam Dokie came and they were there with us. The late Sam Dokie and myself were very close before he died... When I was in Ghana, he used to come and spend weekends with me. The problem is not with all the Congo people. The principal problem is Mr. Taylor who wants to perpetuate himself into power. He wants to crown himself from president to king. And he's trying to find an alibi.

TP: Taylor supporters make us to feel that he launched this war to "restore democracy" in Liberia. Why was ULIMO organized to fight the so-called democratic forces of Mr. Taylor if his aim was to restore democracy?

Gen. Johnson: I think at the end of the tunnel, we can clearly see who really was fighting for democracy. At the end of the tunnel, we can see that I was the only one who was fighting for democracy. I said that nobody (including Mr. Taylor) was going to the mansion with guns.... And when they agreed to go to the ballot box, I said "here ends my war." I wanted Liberia to be free of arms and every citizen respected. So who is more democratic?

TP: Let's bring you to the Jesse Jackson's so-called unity mission to Liberia which takes place in few days. What is your view of what Rev. Jackson is attempting to do.

Gen. Johnson: I used to have very high respect for Jesse Jackson. I thought he was a product of a great hero, Martin Luther King. But it's unfortunate, after I checked Rev. Jackson record, I found out that he's not the type of person I thought he was. For example, Rev. Jackson had a conference for reconciliation in Liberia in Chicago. When he got on the stand, he said the only time democracy failed in Liberia was when Doe came to power. He said it was the time the country was sieged. He said that the country belongs to the Americo-Liberians, so the Monrovia conference was organized as a going-back-home conference for the Americo-Liberians who founded the country. These statements contradict the title he has. He is called human rights activist, he's called the Rev. Jackson, he's called a democrat.

Despite all these titles, he is supporting somebody who has killed more than thousands of fighters. When I met Mr. Jeter, Jackson requested an audience with me, and I refused. I said "I am talking about genuine reconciliation for my country." I am not going to meet with somebody who wants to divide our country again." I told him, "we don't need people like Jackson in Liberia, we need more Martin Luther Kings in Liberia, we need more Nelson Mandela in Liberia, we need more Sani Abachas and Bill Clintons in Liberia - and not Jesse Jacksons. Mandela believes in genuine reconciliation after civil war, and respect for human rights.

Martin Luther King believed in the civil rights of the people. Sani Abacha believes in African solidarity and brotherhood. This is why he sent his brothers to Liberia to die for us. Bill Clinton believes in human development." These are the kinds of people we need in Liberia - we don't need people like Jesse Jackson. What kind of contribution has he made to his own black cause in the Americas? What has he done? What are his achievements? I understand, he was given \$400,000.00 to organize that conference, and he thinks by going to Liberia he's going to get more money. (Mr. Taylor has stated that \$2.5 million was spent on the Chicago "Reconciliation" conference, the Monrovia conference on the future of Liberia and the July 26th celebrations).

TP: You were appointed ambassador to India, when are you going to take up you assignment?

Gen. Johnson: I think you know why I am in this country - I am not well. As soon as I recover and get back home, I will discuss it with my family. I can't make any decision here on my own.

TP: We understand that you were a teacher, but out of a sudden you became a general. Were you in the army before?

Gen. Johnson: You know there is a common saying in Liberia, "hunger makes monkey eat pepper" (necessity compels monkey to eat pepper). When the war started it was directed at my tribal men. Because Doe came from Grand Gedeh, they wanted to kill Doe. And not only Doe, they wanted to kill all Grand Gedeans - guilt by association. After we ran away and

went to Sierra Leone, Taylor people followed us into Sierra Leone and started killing people indiscriminately. They did not care who you were, they killed people indiscriminately at the refugee camp. The Sierra Leonean government got bitter, because they were killing Sierra Leoneans too. When I looked at it, I asked myself a question: what will I tell my children tomorrow? Will I say that I ran away when the people came to kill your grand parents? And this is what forced us to go into the war.

TP: What kind of message do you want to send to Liberians?

Gen. Johnson: I do not believe in rhetoric. I believe that when I tell you something, I must be able to demonstrate it. I want all

Liberians who are patriots, who have that country at heart to emulate my example. My example is that I did not go to war because I wanted power, but to stop those who were destroying the lives of innocent Liberians, and to have a democratic society freed of harassment, and where there is respect for one another, and let by-gone be by-gone! We must know that no tribe or ethnic group can be marginalized. Liberia belongs to all Liberians and it is only Liberians that can rebuild that country through unification. We must look at our plight from that end - not from a Krahn end, not from a Gio end, not from a Lorma end, not from a Congo end. And Mr. Taylor is not the right material to bring reconciliation into

Liberia.===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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23 Sep 1998 11:12:30 EDT

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23 Sep 1998 11:11:51 -0400 (EDT)

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by VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 3147; Wed,
23 Sep 1998 11:07:10 -0400

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: GRAYJK (GRAYJK@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-SEP-1998 09:57:00.00

SUBJECT: STAR Radio and other news from world press 9-25-98

TO: Richard H. Kodl (Richard H. Kodl@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

STAR radio DAILY NEWS

Local news bulletin aired in Monrovia on Friday, September 25, 1998

NATIONAL NEWS

An agreement with the Liberian government to fly Mr. Roosevelt Johnson out of the US Embassy compound has been reached. Officials at the US State Department say the agreement was reached after several telephone conversations between President Charles Taylor and President Clinton's Special Envoy for Africa, Rev. Jesse Jackson. The officials say several details remained to be worked out. But in principle the US officials say the Liberia government has agreed to allow Mr. Johnson to leave the country. A VOA reports says it remained unclear however when Mr. Johnson will leave the US Embassy compound in Monrovia. Yesterday an official of the US Embassy suggested that the former faction leader and his party could be flown out by helicopter today. Another question that has not been resolved according to the VOA is where Mr. Johnson will go after he leaves Liberia. The Liberian government says it will not stand in the way of the United States if it flies Roosevelt Johnson out of Liberia. Presidential spokesman Reginald Goodridge said the Americans had the right to do as they wish with Mr. Johnson. But he said he hopes the United States would cooperate in bringing him to trial. The US has been

suspicious of the assurances given by the Liberian government to try Mr. Johnson fairly

President Taylor said his government will not favor one group over the other. He said, as President, he will do his duty with even hands to seek reconciliation and peace. Speaking at a gospel musical concert in Monrovia, the President repeated his vow not to permit witch hunting in the society. He said he knew the wounds in the society were deep. But he assured that as President his job is to heal those wounds. President Taylor told the gathering the nation needs more prayers and fasting.

A local human rights office in Grand Bassa County wants government to revisit its labour policy. The Liberia Watch for Human Rights Buchanan charter says this should include the issuance of guidelines to govern employees conduct. The organization claimed that this will reduce arbitrary dismissals in the county and avoid labour disputes. The organization has reported its offices being flooded daily with cases of unfair labour practices.

Petty traders in Buchanan say they lost over seventy thousand dollars worth of commodities during a recent police raid. A spokesman for the marketeers said police broke into their warehouses during the crackdown. Mr. Alex Ghendyu claimed the police did not serve them with a search warrant. He said the value of goods initially taken away was estimated at one hundred fifty thousand Liberian dollars. Half of the goods were however retrieved after the search. Ghendyu claimed his men seized some of the goods from relatives and loved ones of the officers while selling

them as evidence. He told STAR radio that the police action was in retaliation to the wounding of an officer. He was wounded during a tussle over their food. But the police spokesman said the force was retrieving stolen items.

Representatives of the UN Refugee Agency in West Africa have been meeting in the Guinean capital Conakry. The meeting centered around a review of operations to repatriate Liberian refugees from camps in the region. Late last year, UNHCR said there were some four hundred eighty thousand Liberian refugees sheltering in countries around the subregion. The agency said there were nearly four hundred thousand refugees in Guinea and Ivory Coast alone. Since the start of repatriation operations, some eighty thousand Liberian refugees have been assisted by UNHCR to return home. Another one hundred eighty-five thousand have returned home on their own.

Former agriculture Minister Joseph Boakai is calling on officials responsible to interpret government's policy to emphasize unity. Mr. Boakai said officials of government should respect President Taylor's explanation that the Camp Johnson Road incident wasn't directed at a particular tribe. He said the President's statement that it was not a witch hunt must be a consistent message promoted by government functionaries. Mr. Boakai expressed concern over the way national issues are being discussed on radio. He said instead of people discussing the issues with the hope of finding solutions, they are projecting how much power they have and how much they know.

A prison authority is appealing for assistance to restore basic services at the Monrovia central prison. The Assistant Justice Minister for Rehabilitation said almost everything at the prison was looted during the weekend fighting. Mr. Anthony Wolo said beddings, mattresses and utensils at the prison have all been taken away. He said prisoners returning to the prison have to sleep on the floor. More than one hundred fifty prisoners broke jail during the September eighteen fighting in Monrovia. Mr. Wolo said over twenty inmates including suspected armed robbers have turned themselves over to authorities. He said it will be in the interest of inmates to return rather than be pursued by security agencies. Mr. Wolo said a rehabilitation program for inmates launched early this year will have to be re-started. The program was being sponsored by a number of organizations including the Liberian National Red Cross.

The second reading of a maritime bill pending before the House of Representatives failed to take place today. The bill is seeking ten percent surrender of the maritime fund to the Bureau of Maritime Affairs. The House plenary said the bill is important to the fiscal budget of the nation and therefore must be reviewed carefully. The Maritime Bureau wants ten percent of the gross revenue generated by the Liberian Maritime Program. The bureau said the amount would be used to support the annual budget of the bureau. House Speaker Nyudueh Morkonmana has instructed the House Maritime Committee to make copies of the draft bill available next Tuesday.

A member of the House has complained to plenary about the poor sanitary

condition of the Capitol Building. Montserrado County Representative Cornelius Porte said the present sanitary condition of the Capitol is a disgrace. He said there's no functional bathroom in the building. He said the situation is ridiculing the National Legislature.

Representative Porte then threatened to stop coming to work until the building's sanitary condition can be improved. He suggested that government pay a local firm renovating the Capitol or terminate the contract. Monweh Liberia Limited signed over two million U.S. dollars contract to renovate the Capitol Building. But the company halted work after completing the first phase of the contract. Phase one included carpeting of the offices and chambers of the legislature. The management of Monweh is claiming default on the part of the government.

The lack of lawyers in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County is hampering the operation of the judiciary in the county. Resident Circuit Court Judge Harper Bailey told STAR radio that due to the absence of lawyers criminal cases on the court docket cannot be tried. He said those charged with criminal mischief must be represented by private lawyers. Judge Bailey said all criminal cases have now been postponed to the next term of court. There are three civil and four criminal cases on the docket.

A local charity, Concerned Christian Community, is undertaking seed multiplication projects in half of the country. These projects are being undertaken with the support of a Dutch charity, Dorkay. Reverend Kortu Browne said the projects were part of the group's focus from emergency to rehabilitation. He told STAR radio CCC was aiming at attracting

extensive community involvement in its projects.

Still in Zwedru, local revenue authorities say illicit mining in the county is denying government revenue. The County Revenue Agent, Henry Doe, said those mining in various parts of the county have no license. He told STAR radio that these illicit miners were evading taxes and cheating government. He's appealing to the Minister of Finance to provide logistics to strengthen local authorities in their responsibilities.

STAR radio, independent radio station transmitting since July 15, 1997 on FM 104 MHz and SW 5.880 MHZ from Monrovia, Liberia, broadcasting in Bassa, Dan, English, French, Gbande, Gola, Grebo, Liberian English, Lorma, Kissi, Kpelle, Krahn, Kru, Mandingo, Mano, Mende and Vai. STAR radio is staffed by Liberian journalists and managed by the Swiss NGO Fondation Hirondelle with financing from the U.S. Agency for International Development through the International Foundation for Election Systems. Additional funding is provided by the government of The Netherlands. STAR radio Sekou Toure Avenue Mamba Point Monrovia, Liberia Tel (+ 231) 226 820 Fax (+ 231) 227 360 E-mail: star@liberia.net Fondation Hirondelle 3, rue Traversiere 1018 Lausanne, Suisse Tel (+ 41 21) 647 2805 Fax (+ 41 21) 647 4469 E-mail: info@hirondelle.org Visit our World Wide Web site: www.hirondelle.org If you wish to be included or taken off the distribution of STAR radio Daily News, send us a message via fax or e-mail. Subscription is free of charge. Non commercial redistribution is allowed, providing that the source is quoted and no editing other than reformatting is made.

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September 25, 1998

HEADLINE: Washington sends military assessment team to embassy in
Liberia

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Sept 24

An American military assessment team has been sent to evaluate security at the US embassy in the Liberian capital of Monrovia where the main opponent to president Charles Taylor has taken refuge, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The mission was sent last Monday by the US military's European Command at the request of the State Department, Pentagon spokesman Captain Michael Doubleday told reporters.

It is there "to determine what might be required if any kind of an evacuation were required," Doubleday said.

He said the United States had not for the moment dispatched additional troops to the region but said that would be considered if it was required.

"We have not sent any additional security forces into the area,"

Doubleday said. "But I think that you can imagine that the European Command has a full range of assets at its disposal which could be dispatched, if necessary."

The American embassy in Monrovia is now provided by the west-African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG.

General Roosevelt Johnson, the main rival to President Taylor, took refuge in the US embassy on Saturday after about 24 hours of skirmished between his troops and the security forces.

Johnson is wanted by the authorities for "treason," along with 22 others named in a list published by the Liberian government.

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Copyright 1998 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune
September 25, 1998

HEADLINE: U.S. TOLD IT MAY FLY EX-WARLORD OUT OF COUNTRY
BYLINE: From Tribune News Services.
DATELINE: MONROVIA, LIBERIA

The Liberian government won't object if a former warlord taking refuge in the U.S. Embassy is flown out of the country, the president's spokesman said Thursday.

The change in official tone could signal an end to the six-day standoff.

Presidential spokesman Reginald Goodridge said it was the United States' right to do as they wished with Roosevelt Johnson--at least for now.

Johnson, President Charles Taylor's main rival, has been holed up in the Embassy since early Saturday, when Liberian soldiers apparently fired on his group as they were trying to arrange for refuge at the sprawling seaside compound. At least three of Johnson's supporters were killed in the shooting and two Americans were injured.

"If they were to fly him out somewhere we cannot control that," Goodridge said in an interview. "It would be their prerogative."

He added, however, the government hopes the United States will cooperate with Liberia in bringing Johnson to trial on charges of treason.

"If they were to agree that they'd make Mr. Johnson available on demand when the trial begins, I think that could be acceptable to the Liberian government," Goodridge said.

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September 24, 1998

HEADLINE: Massive buildup of rebels on SLeone-Liberia border - ECOMOG
chief

DATELINE: FREETOWN, Sept 24

The ECOMOG Task Force Commander in Sierra Leone, General Abu Ahmadu Thursday reported "a massive buildup" of rebels along the Sierra Leone/Liberia border as part of recent political developments in Liberia.

At the weekly ECOMOG security briefings at the ECOMOG headquarters in Freetown, Ahmadu said, "We are watching the situation (particularly at the Mano bridge linking the two countries) but there should not be too much of an alarm over this."

Asked if the border is now closed, he said, "not at all. Our information is that it is still opened."

He said the rebels within the past week had "intensified their attacks" on ECOMOG positions, particularly in Kono and Kabala."

According to Ahmadu, rebel forces attacked Kabala (in the north) on September 18. "They were repelled and we killed 48 of them and captured four."

On September 21, he said, "rebels attacked our positions at Koidu and we counter-attacked, killing 13 of them and wounding 15."

Four rebels, two of them teenagers, were paraded before the press at the briefing. They were reportedly captured in Kono, ECOMOG sources said.

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AP Worldstream

September 24, 1998

BYLINE: TIM SULLIVAN

DATELINE: MONROVIA, Liberia

The Liberian government will not object if a former warlord taking refuge in the U.S. embassy is flown out of the country, the president's spokesman said Thursday.

The change in official tone could signal an end may be in sight to the six-day standoff.

Presidential spokesman Reginald Goodridge said it was the United States' right to do as they wished with Roosevelt Johnson at least for now.

Johnson, President Charles Taylor's main rival, has been holed up in the embassy since Saturday morning, when Liberian soldiers apparently fired on his group as they were trying to arrange for refuge at the sprawling seaside compound. At least three of Johnson's supporters were killed in the shooting and two Americans were injured.

"If they were to fly him out somewhere we cannot control that," Goodridge said in an interview. "It would be their prerogative."

He added, however, the government hopes the United States will cooperate with Liberia in bringing Johnson to trial on charges of treason.

"But if they were to agree that they'd make Mr. Johnson available on demand when the trial begins, I think that could be acceptable to the Liberian government," Goodridge said.

Taylor's government has been demanding that Johnson along with two of his supporters and two sons holed up with him be handed over to Liberian authorities.

Officials in Washington have been holding high-level discussions with Taylor's government since the shooting, trying to find an end to the standoff. Fearing another attack, security has been greatly increased at the embassy and most diplomats have been evacuated.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, U.S. President Bill Clinton's special

envoy to Africa, has been doing most of the negotiating, according to American diplomats and Liberian officials.

Johnson's group forced their way through an embassy gate during the shooting. The U.S. Embassy, which did not want Johnson in the compound in the first place, now finds itself reluctantly protecting him.

American officials, who say Johnson will not be handed over to the Liberian government, have said a resolution to the standoff may involve flying Johnson to a neutral country, though Taylor had earlier insisted that was unacceptable.

Diplomats say the attack on Johnson's group made it clear he could not receive a fair trial in Liberia.

But Goodridge insisted Thursday that Johnson would be treated justly, saying that representatives from the United States, international organizations and human rights groups would be invited to monitor the proceedings.

"We will guarantee that Roosevelt Johnson and his people will receive a fair trial," he said.

The crisis with Johnson began Friday when Liberian troops tried to arrest the former rebel leader. Gun, rocket and mortar battles erupted in the capital and spilled over toward the U.S. embassy

compound, eyewitnesses had said. At least 47 people were killed in the weekend fighting.

Justice Minister Eddington Varmah had earlier denied that Liberian forces opened fire at the U.S. Embassy, but Goodridge acknowledged there had been a shootout between Johnson's supporters and Liberian soldiers.

A Liberian government report on the incident, released Thursday, said the shooting began when an American security officer fired a warning shot to keep government forces at bay.

Embassy officials could not be reached for comment on that assertion, but they have said earlier that the Liberian soldiers opened fire unprovoked and that Johnson and his men were unarmed.

Taylor and Johnson have been longtime rivals, heading opposing factions during Liberia's seven-year civil war.

While the two men had ostensibly made peace after Taylor was elected president last year, Johnson's supporters and government soldiers have repeatedly clashed over the past few months.

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September 24, 1998

HEADLINE: Liberians Deny Opening Fire

DATELINE: MONROVIA, Liberia

Liberia's government has denied its forces opened fire at the U.S. Embassy during a weekend gun battle that killed at least three people and injured two Americans.

Witnesses have said Liberian commandos sprayed gunfire at former warlord Roosevelt Johnson as he and a group of his supporters sought refuge at the embassy Saturday.

But Justice Minister Eddington Varmah was quoted as saying in today's Inquirer newspaper that troops did not open fire on the embassy. He gave, however, no explanation for the deaths or injuries.

"The security forces did not fire at the embassy," Varmah was quoted as saying in the Liberian newspaper.

Since the attack, the embassy has been the scene of tension between the U.S. government and President Charles Taylor, who wants Johnson expelled from the compound and handed over to authorities in Monrovia.

Officials in Washington have been holding discussions with Taylor's government since the shooting to find an end to the standoff.

Fearing another attack, security has been greatly increased at the embassy and most diplomats have been evacuated.

U.S. officials have said Johnson, Taylor's chief rival, will not be handed over to the Liberian government.

American officials have said the resolution to the standoff may involve flying Johnson to a neutral country, though Taylor had earlier insisted that was unacceptable.

Taylor and Johnson have been longtime rivals, heading opposing factions during Liberia's seven-year civil war.

While the two men had ostensibly had made peace since Taylor was elected president last year, Johnson's supporters and government soldiers have repeatedly clashed over the past few months.

On Friday, hundreds of government soldiers advanced through Johnson's neighborhood, a stronghold of his ethnic Krahn supporters, apparently coming to arrest him. A fierce battle erupted, and bullets, rockets and mortars jolted parts of the Liberian capital of Monrovia for two days. At least 47 people were killed.

Johnson and 21 other people have since been charged with treason, accused of trying to overthrow Taylor's government.

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September 24, 1998

HEADLINE: Aid groups evacuate staff from Liberia after fighting

DATELINE: Monrovia

Aid groups have begun evacuating some of their staff from Liberia following last weekend's fighting between government troops and supporters of former warlord Roosevelt Johnson.

"General" Johnson, a former wartime rival of President Charles Taylor, is wanted by the government to answer treason charges. He has taken refuge in the U.S. embassy in Monrovia.

Sources in the humanitarian community said the international non-governmental organizations were reducing their staff "as precautionary measures," and advising remaining expatriate staff to stay at home in the wake of persistent rumours of a planned demonstration to press the U.S. embassy to turn over Johnson to the government.

The U.S. State Department early this week advised all Americans to leave Liberia, and warned Americans elsewhere not to travel to Liberia.

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BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

September 25, 1998

HEADLINE: Government wants USA to hand over fugitives

SOURCE: Liberia Communications Network radio

Text of report by Liberian pro-Charles Taylor radio on 23rd September

The government of Liberia said it is determined to ensure through diplomatic means for the US government to turn over fugitives wanted for attempting to destabilize the country. Justice Minister Peter Jallah during a news conference in Monrovia today, reiterated government's commitment to accord the accused their constitutional rights including their right to counsel and a speedy, transparent and public trial.

Minister Jallah expressed the hope that the United States, being the champion of justice and democracy, will firmly back the efforts of the Liberian government and [words indistinct] full democracy in Liberia.

Meanwhile the Justice Ministry has rejected claims by the US embassy that government security forces shot upon the embassy.

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BBC Summary of World Broadcasts

September 25, 1998

HEADLINE: Defence Ministry denies ordering house-to-house searches

SOURCE: Liberia Communications Network radio

Text of report by Liberian pro-Charles Taylor radio on 22nd September

The joint security in Liberia has been warned against acts that are not in conformity with the special operational orders of the government. A release from the Defence Ministry says it has not ordered any night- time nor daytime house-to-house search as has been reported. The release said in a case of specific security information regarding the hideout of any of the accused, the proper security agencies will go through the proper procedures of effecting arrest.

The Defence Ministry has meanwhile urged the public to report any acts of harassment, intimidation or looting to the nearest security agency for prompt action. It also warned members of the joint security against acts that could cause serious embarrassment to the government.

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September 24, 1998

HEADLINE: US says presence of warlord in embassy 'not planned'

DATELINE: UNITED NATIONS, Sept 23

Washington did not intend former Liberian warlord Roosevelt Johnson to seek refuge at the US embassy in Monrovia, State Department spokesman James Rubin said here Wednesday.

Johnson's presence "was not planned nor is it the preference of the US government," Rubin said.

The ex-warlord of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO-J) faction received "temporary refuge in our embassy in accordance with international law because of an immediate and clear threat to his life," Rubin said.

Johnson, head of a Krahn ethnic faction during the 1989-96 civil war, took refuge in the embassy Saturday after bloodshed which left several dozen dead as the forces of President Charles Taylor tracked down his men in Monrovia.

Rubin urged Taylor's government to "restore the rule of law and respect the human rights of all citizens and foreign nationals."

While awaiting a political solution that would allow Johnson to leave the embassy safely, Rubin urged "all parties to refrain from taking any actions which would further exacerbate tensions around the embassy and in Monrovia."

Taylor wants Johnson and his followers to face charges of treason.

US charge d'affaires John Bauman said the State Department in Washington had instructed him not to turn over Johnson to the Liberian authorities, adding that negotiations with officials were still under way.

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Copyright 1998 The Washington Post September 24, 1998

HEADLINE: Embassy Caught in the Middle; U.S. Refuses to Hand Over Liberian Taking Refuge in Mission

BYLINE: James Rupert, Washington Post Foreign Service

DATELINE: ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Sept. 23

The U.S. Embassy in Liberia is enmeshed in a new round of the country's gun-barrel politics as it refuses to hand over a militia leader and longtime enemy of President Charles Taylor who sought refuge there over the weekend.

In an incident that is bizarre even by the theatrical standards of Liberian politics, Roosevelt Johnson is being sheltered in the embassy after Taylor's police fired on him and embassy personnel Saturday at the embassy gate. The embassy has since flown out most of

its staff, flown in security reinforcements and shut down normal operations.

Taylor's government accuses Johnson of plotting a coup, and Taylor demands that the Americans turn him over for what he guarantees will be a fair trial. But Washington says the assault at the embassy gate makes that promise unreliable.

Jesse Jackson, a Clinton administration special envoy to Africa, is leading the U.S. effort to negotiate a solution. But the standoff threatens to destroy the prickly cooperation achieved between the United States and Taylor since he was elected president last year. That cooperation is seen as essential to helping Liberia recover from the devastation of its seven-year civil war.

Taylor and Johnson are among the bitterest enemies to have survived the war. Battles between their armed factions repeatedly shattered Monrovia, the capital. Last year, a West African peacekeeping force funded largely by the United States managed a partial disarmament of the rival forces and a peaceful election. Taylor won a landslide victory, but Johnson's militia remained a threat in its stronghold at a former army compound close to the presidential palace.

Since the election, Taylor has tried to co-opt or sideline Johnson, appointing him rural development minister and then ambassador to India. On Friday, accusing Johnson of plotting a coup, Taylor tried

to arrest him, and their forces battled at Johnson's headquarters, killing about 50 people, the government said.

On Saturday morning, Johnson and a few aides, including his sons, appeared at the U.S. Embassy's main gate seeking protection, said the U.S. charge d'affaires in Monrovia, John Bauman. To avoid being seen from the street, he and his men crouched behind a concrete security wall that shields the entrance. Bauman, interviewed today by telephone, said he refused the request and called Lt. Gen. Timothy Shelpidi, the Nigerian commander of the West African peacekeeping force.

A Nigerian armored vehicle arrived at the gate to ferry Bauman to meet Shelpidi. Bauman said he proposed that Shelpidi use it to take custody of Johnson -- and, implicitly, to assume a mediating role in the Johnson-Taylor clash. Shelpidi declined, the Nigerian forces left, and Taylor's security chief, Joe Tate, arrived with a squad of gunmen.

For about 20 minutes, Bauman said, "Tate kept his people under control," while he and Tate tried to negotiate guarantees for Johnson's safety if he were taken into custody. Then Tate suddenly "said he had orders from Taylor to leave," Bauman said. As he did, "a colleague of mine heard him turn to one of his officers and say, 'Go get him,' or words to that effect," Bauman said.

Moments later, Bauman said, "Tate's men leapt around the partition and opened fire" on Johnson and the others at the embassy

gate, killing four of Johnson's men and wounding two embassy security officials. Bauman said an embassy guard then yanked open a turnstile gate to let the Americans run into the embassy compound. "In the chaos, Johnson and others ran in as well," he said.

In Washington, Liberian Foreign Minister Monie Captan said today that the gunfire broke out when one of Johnson's men tried to grab the gun of a Liberian policeman. And, he insisted, "there was an intent" to admit Johnson. "No one can just walk into the U.S. Embassy," he said.

Within hours of the gunfight, the embassy evacuated everyone except security personnel and himself, Bauman said. For three days, he said, he tried to keep the matter quiet, to facilitate a diplomatic resolution. But when Taylor's supporters alleged there was U.S. backing for Johnson's purported coup plot and threatened to demonstrate outside the embassy, "we had to get our story out so Liberians would understand what was really going on," Bauman said.

Liberian officials said today they had banned the demonstration for security reasons. In Washington, Captan said the government poses no threat to the embassy, and he accused U.S. officials there of exaggerating the recent violence.

Now, "we're looking for some neutral outcome," said Bauman. "From our side, the negotiations are being handled by Jesse Jackson" in telephone calls to Taylor, rather than by the embassy.===== ATTACHMENT I
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ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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25 Sep 1998 10:04:34 EDT

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25 Sep 1998 10:04:13 -0400 (EDT)

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with BSMTP id 5297; Fri, 25 Sep 1998 09:58:31 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from VTVM1 (NJE origin GRAYJK@VTVM1)
by VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 4330; Fri,
25 Sep 1998 09:58:28 -0400

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ARMS Email SystemRECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: GRAYJK (GRAYJK@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 1-MAR-1999 10:41:00.00

SUBJECT: News from Monrovia papers 2-26-99

TO: Richard H. Kodl (Richard H. Kodl@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
From THE INQUIRER

February 26, 1999

Liberians Training In Guinea?

Taylor Says GOL sends "Diplomatic Note", Delegation Soon

The Liberian leader yesterday spoke about reports of Liberians allegedly undergoing military training in neighboring Guinea, involving former defunct faction leader, Alhaji G. V. Kromah and other ex-combatants. Addressing journalists at his first monthly tete-a-tete in 1999 at the Executive Mansion, Dr. Charles Taylor, said, "there are reports of training going on in Macenta, Guinea," adding, "Kromah and other ex-combatants are involved." In the face of these reports, Dr. Taylor said, "we have sent a note to the Guinean Government informing them of these rumors." "We are convinced that our colleagues, both Kabba and Conteh, will do whatever they can in respect to the Mano River Union," he observed. President Taylor, who expressed confidence in the leader of Sierra Leone and Guinea said, "I sympathize with my colleagues, because they have been deliberately informed about the presence of dissidents from their countries in Liberia. He challenged Liberian journalists to report the presence of any Sierra Leonean or Guinean dissident in Liberia. "We do not think that it will be wise for anyone to try to

bring back war to Liberia; it will not be good;" noting, "the issue now must not be how well we can fight a war. The issue now must be that countries should respect each other's borders and discourage dissident activities," he stressed, and added, "that's my pre-occupation right now."

Dr. Taylor, who reechoed his statement that fighting will be extended to whatsoever country war comes from, said "we will permit Guinean plainclothes security personnel to come to Liberia and work with government security personnel to identify those people, and we will put them out of Liberia," saying that the same goes to Sierra Leone. "I hope that they will accept the invitation that Liberia will also send plainclothes security personnel to work with Guinean security to point out Liberians. If they accept the challenge, I am prepared today," he said, and added, "I urge them to take up this challenge. I want peace and stability in Liberia and the region." President Taylor told the gathering, including the Ministers of Justice and National Security, Health, Information, Director of the Cabinet and the Presidential Security Advisor, that the Guinean Government has appointed an ambassador to Liberia and that Liberia has done same to both Guinea and Sierra Leone, in an effort to ensure that, "we live in harmony." In the bid to foster peace in the Mano River Union countries, the Liberian leader said, "Liberia has requested the leaders of Guinea and Sierra Leone to send at least three persons each to form part of the proposed Mano River Union Security Committee, adding, "we have also asked for a Foreign Ministers meeting in Monrovia on March 3."

According to Dr. Taylor, he has sent letters to the Sierra Leonean leader, the United Nations, United States and Great Britain on the crisis in neighboring Sierra Leone. For the Sierra Leonean leader, Dr. Taylor said he asked him to arrest all Liberian dissidents in that country and turn them over to the Liberian Government for prosecution; while Liberia requested the United Nations to help register and repatriate Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone. To the United States and Great Britain, he said, "we have asked them to help us man our borders." Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea engaged in accusations and counter-accusations that one country is planning to attack the other.

From THE INQUIRER

February 26, 1999

Major Changes in the Senate Soon

...Clr. Brumskine, Grace Minor, others to go

What appears to be a coup occurred in the Liberian Senate yesterday when members of that august body hurriedly voted to restructure all the Senate Standing Committees and have re-election for the leadership of that body. The Senate recently adopted new rules which called for reduction in the number of committees from 26 to 18 in view of Bomi County Senator J. Soko Brown's motion, which was seconded by Nimba County Senator George Koukou, for the re-election to be held. Those to be affected by this new move by the Senate include the President Pro-Tempore, Clr. Charles W. Brumskine, the Chairman of the Senate Standing

Committee, Montserrado County Senator, Grace B. Minor and the Senate Foreign Relation Committee Chairman, Senator John D. Gray of Grand Cape Mount County.

Others to be affected include the Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman, Clr. Francis Garlawulo of Bong County, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Maritime, Senator Mohammed Dukuly of Bomi County among others. However, minutes following the vote in which 14 Senators voted for and 4 voted against, some members of the opposition parties expressed serious reservation over the hasty manner in which the decision was taken. Grand Bassa County Senator, Clr. J. D. Baryougar Junius, speaking to reporters shortly after the vote, indicated that the action was unconstitutional, because in keeping with the Constitution, the Senate can only hold re-election and restructure its committees only after six years. Also speaking to reporters, the Senate Minority leader, Senator J. Lamark Cox of Maryland County, noted that it was an unfortunate move by the Senate to decide to have re-election. He urged that the re-election should have been based on Article 47 of the Constitution, which states that the Senate should elect its officers after every six years, but barely two years after being in office, the Majority party used the provisions of the revised rules to call for re-election. Senator Cox who also represents Unity Party (UP), further added that he made it clear when they were adopting the revised rules that it must not overrule the Constitution if adopted, but the Majority went ahead in voting for re-election, in violation of the Constitution. Commenting on whether the Minority will be part of the Senate that will violate the Constitution, Senator Cox indicated, "I

don't think the Minority will be prepared to be a part of the Senate that will violate the Constitution."

He further urged his colleagues to do away with he called, "party politics," because according to him, there are many problems confronting the country and that party politics will not solve these problems. Late last year, the Senate decided to have re-election of its officers, but this was vehemently opposed by the general public and the press.

Meanwhile, Margibi County Senator, George Kpenneh, who recently won the by-election conducted by the Election Commission (ECOM) for that county, was yesterday sworn into office by Vice President Enoch M. Dogolea. He replaces former Senator S. Bedell Fahn, who was expelled for acts unbecoming of senator.

From THE INQUIRER

February 26, 1999

"America Obligated to Help Liberia"

The United States Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa, Rev. Jesse Jackson, says America has special obligation to assist Liberia if there is security, stability, and democracy. According to Rev. Jackson, Liberia, like other countries in Africa, deserves aid, and as such, the US Government requires transparency and accountability. President Bill Clinton's Special Envoy to Africa was speaking live

yesterday on the Africa Journal satellite broadcasting window-Worldnet at the USIS in Mamba Point.

Rev. Jackson maintained that security, stability, development, and debt reduction/relief are recipes towards achieving a genuine democracy. In response to a caller's concern on why the US, as a long-standing friends, continues to drag its feet towards assistance to Liberia, he said, "we have a special obligation and Liberia deserves aid." Rev. Jackson named the construction of the Robert International Airport, and the Voice of America (VOA) installation in Careyburg, (which has been relocated), among others, as some of the United States' contributions to Liberia, a country formed by freed slaves from America. The US envoy said he was appalled by the ongoing crisis in Sierra Leone and pointed out that he welcomes the Liberian leader, President Charles Taylor's unswerving role in helping to restore peace to that country. Consistent with its commitment to democracy, Rev. Jackson stated, "a democratically-elected government of the late President Samuel Doe was overthrown;" but according to him, "that is behind us." The Africa Journal expected guest yesterday was Ghanaian President Flt .Jerry John Rawlings, who could not attend owing to his busy schedule in the US where he is currently on an official visit; coupled with a meeting he was said to be attending the US Vice President Al Gore.

President Rawlings was deputized on the Worldnet by Ghana's Foreign Minister, Amb. Victor Gbeho, who noted that the United States has a sustained investment interest in Africa owing to the vast resources the continent has. Ambassador Gbeho disclosed that conflicts in Africa gave

the continent very bad image which often retard economic growth and sustained democracy. He suggested that in spite of the continent being ravaged by conflicts, "we shouldn't sit down and fold our hands; we should fight poverty at all cost tackling it from the base." The Ghanaian envoy averred "Africa is the continent of the next century/millennium as it will consolidate its human and natural resources for the development of the African people." Later, President Rawlings told Americans at a state dinner that "Africa is a continent in transition, and would become the continent of the century." The second segment of the Africa Journal featured Rev. Jesse Jackson who attributed the slow pace of economic growth and development to the unprecedented wave of land mines on the continent, HIV/Aids, debt reduction, transparency and accountability. According to the US envoy, "Africa subsidizes America and America subsidizes Europe, and there is a strong business constituency in America for the African Continent."

Meanwhile, USIS Director Sarah Morrison has disclosed that next week's Africa Journal will features crisis-hit Sierra Leone.

From THE INQUIRER

February 26, 1999

UNHCR C'ssioner Visit Today

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, arrived in Monrovia today for her first visit to Liberia. Mrs. Ogata,

who will be accompanied by several UNHCR officials, is expected to pay a courtesy call on the President of Liberia, His Excellency Dahkpannah Dr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, and hold discussions with some senior Liberian Government officials. The High Commissioner's delegation will subsequently travel to Lofa County to visit refugee programs as well as programs for the reintegration of Liberian returnees.

Mrs. Otaga's visit to Liberia which is part of a West African tour that is taking the delegation to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire, is in support of efforts to boost UNHCR programs in the sub-region for the repatriation and reintegration of Liberian refugees, as well as the care and maintenance of over half a million Sierra Leonean refugees that are mostly in Guinea and Liberia. Since the launching of the voluntary repatriation program in 1997, over 98,000 Liberian refugees have been brought back home by UNHCR and its partners, while more than 70 Quick-Impact Projects, including the repair of schools, health centers, water and sanitation facilities as well as roads and bridges, are now at various stages of completion in Lofa, Bong, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties for the reintegration of Liberian returnees.

The visit will not only afford the High Commissioner an opportunity to see these activities at first hand, but also help draw attention to the plight of refugees and returnees on the sub-region. Mrs. Ogata, 71, who became United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1991, has served for about eight years, having been re-elected to the post three times by the UN General Assembly. She was previously an Independent Expert of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, after serving as Dean of the

Faculty of Foreign Studies and Director of the Institute of
International Relations at Sophia University in Tokyo. Mrs. Ogata, who
was born in Tokyo, Japan, was formerly Japan's Representative to the
United Nations Commission on Human Rights, after serving as Chairman of
the Executive Board of UNICEF. A former Associate Professor of
Diplomatic History and International Relations at the International
Christian University in Tokyo, Mrs. Ogata who holds a PhD in Political
Science from the University of California, and an M.A. in International
Relations from Georgetown University in Washington D.C., has written
extensively on the issue of refugees and the displacement of people. She
has also published several books on Diplomatic History.===== ATTACHMENT 1
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