

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**25 May 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 25 May, 19:30 GMT**

Good evening fellow citizens. This is Captain (Paul Thomas), spokesman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC. The government of Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has been overthrown. In view of the above, the following should be adhered to with immediate effect, and all government ministers should report at Defense Headquarters. All foreign troops with particular reference to [words indistinct] should return to base and await further instructions. All borders -- land, air, and sea -- are closed until further notice. All commanders at the front must be in full control of their men. The Special Security Division, SSD, are required to take orders only from Defense Headquarters, and for operations of all security forces, it is a must.

All senior military and police officers from the rank of lieutenant colonel to brigadier, and superintendent to inspector general should report at Defense Headquarters immediately.

All local defense forces, kamajors, and [word indistinct] are disbanded with immediate effect and should surrender their weapons to the nearest military headquarters.

Looting: This is an offense, and offenders will be shot on sight. I repeat. Looting: This is an offense, and offenders will be shot on sight.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed except officers and men on essential duty with specific identification.

We are, therefore, appealing to the international community to show restraint, and the designated head of state will brief them in due course.

Fellow citizens, no personal vendetta! The struggle is for us all! I thank you.

**SLBS Radio, 25 May, 18:42 GMT**

Good evening fellow citizens. This is (?Captain) [name indistinct], spokesman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC. The government of Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has been overthrown. In view of the above, the following should be adhered to with immediate effect and all government ministers should report at Defense Headquarters. All foreign troops with particular [words indistinct] should return to base and await further instructions. All borders -- land, air, and sea -- are closed until further notice. All commanders at the front must be in full control of their men [passage indistinct].

**SLBS Radio, 25 May, 12:00 GMT**

Here is a very important announcement to this nation: By instructions, the general public is hereby informed to keep off the streets. There is no cause for alarm. There is no cause for alarm. Everything is under control. As of now, there are no casualties, no dead, no (?looting) [words indistinct] our citizens. The situation is fully under control.

A public statement will be issued later. Until then, we are hereby informing our counterparts, the Nigerian forces, to know that this is a purely internal matter -- a purely internal matter. It has nothing whatsoever to do with them. We want them to put down their arms and return to their various deployment areas immediately -- to put down their arms and return to their deployment areas immediately. Also, we want the general public to know that as of now, there is a dawn-to-dusk curfew. All civilians keep off and stay indoors. Thank you!

**SLBS Radio, 25 May, 10:28 GMT**

Fellow citizens, my country people: I am warning all [word indistinct] looters to stop (?such business). As now, I am speaking to you as the spokesman of [words indistinct]. His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has apparently left our country. Now, this step is in the interest of the (?motherland). Now I am appealing to you people (?with) rank from lieutenant colonel to full colonel to report themselves to the Army headquarters. [Words indistinct] understanding our Nigerian brothers have done us. As now I am speaking to you, we have already taken over the FM [radio station] and some other important places. I am also -- I am very happy -- as I am talking to you people, my men are closer in the State House as for now. [sentence as heard]

Fellow citizens, enough is enough. We have to build up our nation. I say that we are trying to make negotiations for our brotherly country, Nigeria, to release Corporal Foday Sankoh to come to Sierra Leone and join us, and we are trying to call S.A.J. Musa to come to join us.

Fellow citizens, this is the time we are appealing to the (?audience). We are all one; the war is over. As I am talking now, as the spokesman now, all kamajors are to be disbanded forthwith. No more kamajors, no more civil defense force as from now. We are the National Army. We have to fight for this country through the support of you, the nation.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**27 May 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 27 May, 10:30 GMT**

Here is an important release from the Chairman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council:

The AFRC is concerned over rumors that our brothers, the Nigerian force, are about to launch an attack. The AFRC is hereby informing the general public to know that it is a baseless rumor. The situation is under control, and all and sundry are hereby requested to go about their normal duties.

I repeat, the AFRC is concerned over rumors that our brothers, the Nigerian force, are about to launch an attack. The AFRC is hereby informing the general public to know that it is a baseless rumor. The situation is under control, and all and sundry are hereby requested to go about their normal duties.

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Fellow citizens, no personal vendetta! The struggle is for us all! I thank you.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**28 May 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 28 May, 10:00 GMT**

Here now is a special message from the Revolutionary United Front High Command to all RUF combatants: Message to all RUF combatants: [Words indistinct] people's welcome to the High Command and all combatants of the RUF through the gallant field commanders of the RUF, your leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh of the RUF, I am now instructing you to disregard all previous instructions given, and to stop all attacks and keep defensive. Do not go on the offensive, I repeat, do not go on the offensive. Be on the defensive. All instructions -- former instructions -- for operations should be canceled. All commanders should be on the defensive.

At this moment, you have to work with the brothers in Freetown and the provinces. The entire Army of the Sierra Leone military forces will allow working together to bring peace in Sierra Leone. We ask you to work with them so that peace will prevail in our beloved motherland. So I will like you all to work with them as brothers; we are no more enemies. The enemies are the politicians, not the soldiers.

Field commanders and all commanders, you will always get instructions from me through Major Koromah. They are our brothers. Let no one fool you. You have to work with them to put the situation under control, especially in the western area. As you the field commander, instruct your other Commander Bingo to stand by for any reinforcement needed by Major Koromah for any eventualities. We have to defend our sovereignty. You are to act on these orders immediately. Do not delay and you will hear me over the media -- BBC and VOA in (?support) to the present operation in Freetown.

Thank you all. My absence in Sierra Leone is the presence of God, RUF, and to the people. [sentence as heard]

Power to the people and the word of our people is to be in the hands of the people. RUF, be strong, intelligent. (Egbure, nyakoa) [local language -- meaning unknown]

My people: You are the children, great, great grandchildren. Let's move the revolution with our brothers. Peace be with you. I will join you very soon. I say again: This is your leader and Commander in Chief of the RUF, Corporal Foday Sankoh.

Thank you all.

**SLBS Radio, 28 May, 08:55 GMT**

It has come to the notice of government that certain members of the public are planning to stage a mass demonstration today, 28 May 1997. In consideration of the present security situation in the country, particularly in the capital city, Freetown, government will not permit holding of such demonstrations, the public are therefore warned in their own interest not to [words indistinct] any meeting or demonstration. Members of the security forces will be on duty at all times to maintain law and order throughout the country.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police announces for the information of all police [words indistinct] to report to their various police stations to resume their normal duties in the maintenance of law and order. The police duty trucks will be provided from Grafton, Duwey, Kissy, and Aberdeen to their various police stations as from Wednesday, today, 28 May 1997 at 0600 failing which will meet severe disciplinary action.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**28 May 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 29 May, 15:26 GMT**

[Proclamation issued by the Administration of Sierra Leone Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, Proclamation 1997, in Freetown on 28 May 1997] Proclamation to make provisions for the interim administration of the Republic of Sierra Leone by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council [AFRC] -- its establishment, [words indistinct] and for other matters connected therewith.

Whereas it is a fundamental duty of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone to secure and maintain the safety of the state and public order, and whereas the action and utterances of the (?ousted government), political parties and their leaders have created conditions which can lead to tribal faction, bloodshed, and tribal warfare, and whereas it is necessary and expedient to avert immediately that trend of affairs and for provisions to be made for the maintenance of law and order in Sierra Leone, [words indistinct] administration by law of the state of Sierra Leone, [words indistinct]; We, the members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone, in cooperation with the people of Sierra Leone, in order to ensure the maintenance of law and order, domestic tranquility, the enjoyment of the blessings of liberty, unity, and democracy for the people of Sierra Leone and all persons living therein, we hereby proclaim as follows:

Constitution of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council -- There is hereby established a council to be known as the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council carrying out [words indistinct]. The council shall be (?chaired) by a chairman and a deputy chairman and other members of the [words indistinct] and secretary general shall be appointed by the council and shall uphold the functions [words indistinct] the council will determine. The council [words indistinct] provisions of the Constitution [words indistinct] 1991. All the provisions of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 which came into operation on 30 October (?1996) which are inconsistent or in conflict with this proclamation or any law made thereafter shall be deemed to have been suspended as from 25 May 1997. Without [words indistinct] the generality of [words indistinct] the permanent [words indistinct] under the said constitution [words indistinct] 25 May 1997 is dissolved. All political parties are dissolved and membership in political parties is prohibited with effect from 25 May 1997.

(?Decree To Empower Council To Make Law) [subhead]

1. The Council shall have power as [words indistinct] and in the national interest to make laws which shall be known as decrees.
2. Any decree made by the Council may be amended, repealed or [words indistinct] made by the Council.

3. Every decree made by the Council shall be deemed to be an act as defined in Section III of the Interpretation Act, 1971.

4. Any decree made by the Council shall be signed by the chairman or, in the absence of the chairman, by the deputy chairman of the Council.

5. Subject to any decree made by the Council, all or enactments in force in Sierra Leone immediately [words indistinct] 25 May 1997 shall continue in force, provided that any enactment in force in Sierra Leone immediately before the 25 May 1997, which is inconsistent or in conflict with any provisions of this proclamation or any [words indistinct] made thereunder shall be deemed to have been suspended as from the 25 May 1997.

Publication and (?implementation) of Decree: Every decree made by the Council will be published in the gazette and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such other date as may be provided in or under the decree or in any public enactment.

6. Subject to any decree made by the Council, the public service of Sierra Leone as it existed immediately before the 25 May 1997 shall continue in existence, and any person holding or acting in any office in the public service immediately before that date shall continue in office subject to any decree or other enactments in force after that date.

7. Subject to any decree made by the Council, any reference to president, vice president, minister or prime minister in the constitution of Sierra Leone which came into operation on 1 October 1991 or in any enactment, continues in existence by virtue of this proclamation, shall, on and after 25 May 1997, be considered as a reference to the Council or such authority as the Council may by order appoint. [words indistinct] the Council may, while it considers it necessary to appoint [words indistinct] make an order against any person [words indistinct] made thereunder shall be deemed to have been suspended as from the 25 May 1997. Any order made under [words indistinct] directing that any person be detained shall not be [words indistinct] without prejudice to the generality of [words indistinct] accordingly.

Power to Amend or Repeal the Proclamation: The Council shall have power to amend, repeal, or suspend this proclamation or [words indistinct]. This proclamation shall [words indistinct] operation on the 25 May 1997.

Made in Freetown on 28 May 1997.

Major Johnny Paul Koroma [word indistinct] on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

### **SLBS Radio, 29 May, 07:18 GMT**

The Defense Headquarters has observed with dismay and serious concern that some retired and dismissed officers and soldiers as well as some civilians have taken it upon themselves to put



on military uniforms and carry weapons. Many of these are going around harassing innocent civilians.

These people are advised, in their own best interest, to surrender all weapons and uniforms to the Military Police immediately. Anyone violating this warning will be seriously dealt with and will face the full penalty of the law.

The public is now informed that telephone hotlines have been installed to address all complaints regarding harassment, looting, any distress suffered, or required security assistance. Your complaints will be thoroughly investigated.

The numbers are: 272 086, Military Police; 272 661, Cockwheel Exchange; 272 734, Army Headquarters; 233 065, Myhyong Mess.

The AFRC is appealing to all Sierra Leoneans to cooperate with the Army to restore peace, law, and order to our beloved country.

### **SLBS Radio, 29 May, 06:58 GMT**

It has come to the notice of the law enforcement authorities that on Sunday, 25 May 1997, prisoners in jail for armed robbery and murder broke out of the Central Prison, Pademba Road, and other prisons in the provinces.

As a result of that, reports reaching the authorities state that some of these prisoners are now believed to be carrying arms and, in some cases [they are] in military fatigues going out to court officials, police establishments, barracks, and other private premises threatening peaceful citizens.

Against this background, a joint military and police team has been formed to arrest these people. Members of the public are therefore requested to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities to identify the possible whereabouts of these people with a view to bringing them to justice.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**30 May 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 30 May, 19:30 GMT**

[Statement by Revolutionary United Front Colonel James Allan Coleman] Fellow citizens, we have come to Freetown to join our brothers to bring peace to our people. As you heard from the statement from my brother, Lieutenant Collins, we are now advising the Nigerians to have our leader released immediately for the continuation of the peace of the people of this nation. We know that our people have been tired of living under war condition, so we do not want no more war in the country. We are now advising all citizens of this nation to agree with us to bring peace in this country. I am saying: no more war in Sierra Leone. We have now united with our brothers, and we will cooperate with our brothers to restore peace to our people. We are advising the Nigerians and all foreign forces to stop bringing war materials to threaten the peace for our people. We are asking them to pack all their belongings and go. This is not an external problem but an internal problem.

This is our internal problem. So, we can be able to solve our own problems by uniting with our brothers. We are not going to go back in the bush no more. We are here with our brothers, and we are [word indistinct] them as you heard the statement from my brother, who is my colleague. So, I advise all fellow citizens of this nation to agree with us for the [words indistinct] must come on. You will hear more from me, but for now, I would not like to talk too much, but what I am saying to you is we want peace. We will put it into action. I thank you all.

**SLBS Radio, 30 May, 19:22 GMT**

["Special Message" by Revolutionary United Front Spokesman Lieutenant David Collins] Fellow citizens of this our beloved Sierra Leone, brothers and sisters in arms, and serious concerned citizens, it gives me great pleasure at this time when history is being made within the borders of Sierra Leone in the liberation of our people in this our blessed country. you will agree with me that the Sierra Leone Army is in a deplorable condition according to existing standards; that is, molestation, intimidation, harassment, tribalism, state protectionism and the main sources of these conditions.

The Army needs a complete revolution so as to defend and protect the sovereignty of the state. The RUF/SL [Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone] has called for your cooperation to accomplish this desired mission. You all will agree with me that the rights of the Sierra Leonean people have been denied them by a handful of criminals who have been using their position to boast and perpetrate their selfish aims--the politicians in this regard. The RUF has come to give the power to the people through pure democracy and it is the voice of the people.

Since 1991, we have been fighting against the APC [All People's Congress], the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council], and the SLPP [Sierra Leone People's Party] governments respectively. These various governments did not understand the RUF calls. But today, the AFRC government has [words indistinct] and understandably invited the RUF/SL for a concerted effort. We are determined to bring complete safety to the people of this country with our sincerity, [word indistinct], and dedication of purpose.

We have come with 5,000 armed men to safeguard and to give security to this nation. As you all know, this is an internal affair. We need no foreign intervention. We need no more war in this our blessed country. This country of liberty, unity, justice, and freedom. We ask the international community to bear with us to put things into correct shape. As you all know, the RUF, under the leadership of Corporal Saybannah Sankoh, is struggling very hard to bring good sanity, good living conditions and other aspects to the Sierra Leonean people. But the politicians have been sabotaging these efforts. We welcome the present government in Sierra Leone. We embrace them so that we can bring total peace to this country.

Any intervention into the internal affairs of this our country, the RUF will never leave no stone unturned but to put things into correct shape. On behalf of the RUF and the whole country and especially our leader, Foday Saybannah Sankoh, we are here to bring peace and sanity to Sierra Leone. We are urging all citizens to be law-abiding, to embrace this revolution so that we can build a society worth living in.

RUF, as you have heard from our leader, Foday Saybannah Sankoh, now we are on march with the AFRC, and we are now the People's Army. No more RUF, but the People's Army, to bring peace and security to the people of this our country. I thank you all.

### **SLBS Radio, 30 May, 16:04 GMT**

["Important Announcement" from the AFRC] The Secretariat of the AFRC is aware of the massive looting and distress caused to a number of citizens and noncitizens alike during the events that occurred on 26 May 1997. It was indifferently announced that the perpetrators of that dastardly act are being actively pursued and a joint army and police force is now in operation.

The AFRC Secretariat wishes to extend apologies to all those persons affected and to assure them that the AFRC government will consider looking into their respective cases in due course. With this assurance, the FRC is now appealing to all business houses, shops, etc. to resume normal business activities as maximum protection is assured.

### **SLBS Radio, 30 May, 15:10 GMT**

[Statement by John Karefa-Smart, Chairman of the United National People's Party] Fellow citizens of Sierra Leone, wherever you may be, I asked for this opportunity to speak to you as one of you, as a senior citizen concerned with all the problems of our country. During the last

two days, we have been occupied in trying to find out in connection with the diplomatic community and with the leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council what are the best steps which we can take in order to bring our country forward to the end which we all want, namely peace. We started with fruitful discussions along these lines, and in the midst of these discussions, we thought we had arrived at one or two points which could be built up, and we were going to plan to meet again today. Just before our meeting, however, a very distressing piece of information was brought to my attention that a message had been intercepted which ordered the invasion of our country tomorrow. As a concerned Sierra Leonean, as one who has been involved, right from the beginning of the independence of our country, in developing our country so that we can all enjoy it, I am concerned with the (?possibility) for the first time in the history of our country to be invaded by an outside force. I think we, as Sierra Leoneans, ought to do whatever we can to make our friends abroad and our friends in this country know that we will not--will not--be pleased if this happens, and are calling upon all of us to respond in whatever way we can to this urgent crisis. A Chinese friend said, "The word crisis means a dangerous opportunity." We are facing a crisis, which is a dangerous opportunity for all of us to act together.

Fellow citizens of Sierra Leone, please, please, let us know what you feel like and what you want to do about this threat to our country and countrymen."

### **SLBS Radio, 30 May, 14:30 GMT**

[Letter from Major Johnny Paul Koromah, Chairman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and Head of State, to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan] Your Excellency, I am most concerned to write to you today to inform you of a number of incidents involving the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which threaten the security and stability of Sierra Leone and against the principles and tenets of the United Nations Charter.

As you are aware, on Sunday, 25 May 1997, I assumed responsibility as Head of State of the Republic of Sierra Leone when the erstwhile president, Alhaji Tejan Kabbah, fled the country, abandoning his post as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and consequently abandoning his duty as the [word indistinct] of Sierra Leone.

In fulfilling our duties as patriotic Sierra Leoneans, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council took over responsibility for administering Sierra Leone and securing her peace and security. Since that day, we have been able to secure the agreement of the leader of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council for the immediate cessation of hostilities and an end of the war, thus ending six years of hostilities as a step to securing peace and security for Sierra Leone.

In the interim, we have witnessed a series of intervention in the internal affairs of Sierra Leone by foreign forces such as the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, led by the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This has been manifested by [word indistinct] up of Nigerian troops at our borders and within the country, as well as the unlawful landing of Nigeria-owned

military aircraft on (?30 May), and the consequent deployment of about 1,000 Nigerian personnel.

In the light of this act, we wish to draw your attention and that of the United Nations Security Council to the following concerns:

1. That foreign intervention in the internal affairs of a member state contravenes international law as embodied in the United Nations Charter, unless it is sanctioned and endorsed by the recognition of the Security Council.
2. That the Government of Sierra Leone is unaware of any mandate having been given by the Security Council to ECOWAS which would legitimize any foreign intervention by ECOWAS through ECOMOG or any of her member states.
3. The mandate given by the Security Council to ECOMOG for intervention in Liberia is limited to Liberia and as such any ECOMOG intervention in Sierra Leone would be viewed as an illegitimate act of aggression against the sovereign state and [words indistinct].
4. At a time when Sierra Leoneans are in the process of securing peace and security for the country, such external aggression could only serve to increase the violent (?brutalization) and suffering of the citizens of Sierra Leone who have already endured this for the last six years.

On behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, I request you to urgently advise the members of the Security Council of our concern and to hastily convene a meeting of the Security Council to address this situation.

Signed by Major Johnny Paul Koroma, Chairman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and Head of State of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**1 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 1 June, 16:12 GMT**

This is a special announcement from the AFRC Secretariat. The AFRC announces the names of the National Revolutionary Council of Sierra Leone: Major J.P. Koroma, Chairman; Corporal Saybana Foday Sankoh, Vice Chairman; Brigadier M.N. Laimon, Retired; Brigadier H.K. Conteh, Brigadier S.F.Y. Koroma, Chief of Defense Staff; Colonel Mark Kangah, Naval Captain A.B. Sesay, Colonel K.I.S. Kamara, Squadron Leader V.L. Keith, Colonel Sam Bockarie, RUF; Colonel Denis Mingle, RUF; Lieutenant Eldred Collins, RUF; Inspector General of Police Teddy Williams, Kermo Lumumba Fofana, FFD; PLO 1 Staff Sergeant Abu Sankoh; PLO 2 Staff Sergeant Alex Braimah; PLO 3 Staff Sergeant Mazi Kamara, Secretary General of the National Ruling Council, Mr. S.A.T. Baya; Charles Margai, Attorney General; Mr. M.A. Shawa, Director of Prisons.

The names of the members of the cabinet will be announced soon. Resident secretaries are as follows: Secretary of State, Southern Region: Major A.F. Kamara. Secretary of State, Northern Region: Major A.M. Koroma. Secretary of State Eastern Region: Captain A.P. Kane. The resident secretaries should assume duties immediately.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**2 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 2 June, 18:50 GMT**

[Press Release from the Secretariat of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] All vehicles, with military personnel which (?cleared to engage in) reversing the Nigerian invasion should report now at Military Headquarters. Any such vehicles caught plying the streets [words indistinct] will be impounded and the occupants severely dealt with. This directive also applies to soldiers walking on foot with military [words indistinct]. This is to prevent looting and other forms of malpractices. From now onward, anyone caught looting will be shot on sight.

**SLBS Radio, 2 June, 12:46 GMT**

["Very important public notice"] This is to inform the general public that on behalf of the President of the Guinean Community, Mr. Mohammed Woury Diallo, the Guinean community is kindly asking all Guineans to turn out in massive support to join our Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters now to support the peace march which is in progress to stop all forms of military intervention in Sierra Leone [sentence as heard]. We view this with great concern. All are invited.

**SLBS Radio, 2 June, 12:05 GMT**

[Statement issued by the "Concerned Citizens Committee of Sierra Leone" ] We, the Concerned Citizens Committee of the Republic of Sierra Leone pledge our total and unflinching loyalty and support for the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC, in their genuine efforts to bring national peace to our beloved country, Sierra Leone.

However, we the Concerned Citizens Committee of Sierra Leone have heard with distress news of possible military intervention led by Nigeria against our country. We want Nigeria to know that this is an internal affair, and that they should allow us to solve our problems. We want Nigeria to know that any attempt to attack our now peaceful country will be viewed as an act of aggression and will be stoutly resisted. Sani Abacha and his cohorts are warned to stop immediately their terrorist acts against our people.

The Concerned Citizens Committee has set up a committee to mobilize our youth throughout the country to come out in their numbers to defend our country. We are prepared to fight alongside the new People's Army under the command of our Commander-in-Chief, Major Johnny Paul Koroma.

Bravo, AFRC!  
Bravo, the People's Army!  
Bravo, the People of Sierra Leone!

In the cause of peace, freedom, justice, equality, and democracy, the struggle continues.

Signed: A.B. Sankoh

**SLBS Radio, 2 June, 08:45 GMT**

["Special Message" by Dr. Kande Baba Conteh] I want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the mass turnout in solidarity with the AFRC and the peace ushered in our society.

The situation in which we now find ourselves, you will agree with me, is detrimental to the peace already achieved, and to our integrity as a nation. We are being threatened with foreign intervention.

The presence of Nigerian troops and the military exercises going on in our country must be treated very seriously. Any military intervention not only means an end to the peace achieved but destruction to lives and property. Historical relics will be destroyed. The use of modern weaponry will have negative ecological effect on our land and population. The tendency for our generation to be affected by radiation should also not be ruled out.

Fellow brothers and sisters: When one considers the above, you will agree with me that we, Sierra Leoneans, are at the point of extinction. Our beloved country [is] at the brink of disintegration.

It is in this regard [that] we are asking the entire population of our beloved country to continue the solidarity started with the AFRC to maintain the peace achieved, and secure our national integrity. Peace is here as a forerunner to development in our country.

First, let us say no to any foreign intervention. Any individual or group in favor of foreign intervention is only portraying hatred for our beloved country. The AFRC, we want to assure you, is here to uphold two ideals: peace and our national integrity. Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, young, and old: Let us take to the streets now. I repeat: Let us take to the streets now and say no to foreign intervention.

I thank you all.

**SLBS Radio, 2 June, 06:50 GMT**



["Special Announcement", originally in Krio] As you know, the AFRC yesterday issued a statement calling on Sierra Leoneans and all peace-loving foreign residents in the country to go out into the streets and demonstrate this morning, but suddenly, since this morning, some bombings are being heard. These bombings are meant to intimidate you and prevent you from demonstrating. The AFRC is hereby assuring all Sierra Leoneans and foreign residents that there should be no cause for alarm, and urges you to turn out massively into the streets to demonstrate as planned.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**3 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 3 June, 11:58 GMT**

["Important Announcement" from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Secretariat]  
Following the unprovoked bombardment of the city of Freetown by Nigerian warships, several bombs landed at the Mammy Yoko Hotel, Aberdeen village, Murray Town, parts of Wilkinson Road, and the residence of the British High Commissioner. About 80 civilians have been reported dead and over 100 sustained injuries of various sorts. Most of the casualties are women and children.

The public is further reminded to note that negotiations were on with the Nigerian authorities when they took a different turn to bombard the city of Freetown. This is considered to be painfully unfair.

However, following the engagement between the Nigerian troops and the Armed Forces of the AFRC, both sides sustained casualties. About 300 Nigerian soldiers, including 13 officers, have surrendered. They are now kept in custody in areas described as lucrative military targets.

Intelligence reports reaching the AFRC indicate that the Nigerian authorities are planning an air bombardment of the city. All areas to crosscheck and confirm this report are closed. Notwithstanding, the public is advised to stay calm.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**8 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 8 June, 14:55 GMT**

["Important Announcement" from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Secretariat] Here is an important announcement: The AFRC Secretariat wishes to inform the general public that a large quantity of looted items has been discovered and presently kept at Military Police Headquarters. All those who are victims of looting are requested to report at Military Police Headquarters, Cockerill [words indistinct] at 11 a.m. to identify their property.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**9 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 9 June, 07:00 GMT**

In accordance with the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act No. 18 of 1971, any unauthorized absence from duty of a worker without valid reasons can result to summary dismissal by the employer. Notice is, therefore, now taken by the AFRC that whereas employers have provided jobs for their employees, it is imperative that if employees are not available to perform those duties, their services can be deemed to be terminated summarily.

Workers in Sierra Leone are, therefore, warned that any further failure to perform their duties to their employers would result to summary dismissal. AFRC is, therefore, now informing all workers in Sierra Leone to be present at their workplaces (?by) Monday, the 9th of June. It should be noted that there is at present [word indistinct] on employment possibilities in Sierra Leone, and with the supply of surplus labor in the country replacement could be easily secured.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**10 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 10 June [?]**

["Important Announcement" from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Secretariat] Certain ill-motivated people are going around spreading rumors of imminent ECOMOG air raid and attack. These people have only one thing in their minds, and that is to spread fear in the minds of our people and serve their factional interest. [Words indistinct] how people are digging holes from their workplaces and other areas of economic activity.

The AFRC is reassuring all our people that these rumors are baseless, without foundation [sentence as heard]. Already, the ECOWAS chairman, General Sani Abacha, has accepted to meet with the high-powered delegation from the AFRC, which has left Freetown on Tuesday, 10 June for Abuja [words indistinct]. It has been assured that any such threat of ECOMOG invasion is just a figment of imagination of ill-well toward people. The AFRC is therefore asking you to put your minds at rest and go about your normal activities.

You might have heard Dr. James Jonah over the BBC Network Africa telling the world that members of the AFRC were asking for money and other material (?rewards) in response to abandoning their position and leaving the country. The AFRC wishes to remind the good people of Sierra Leone that the chairman, in his various pronouncements, has told you that the (?ousted) civilian team of the Kabbah regime is not just [words indistinct]. There is only (one) thing he wants, and that is peace. In the two weeks since the AFRC assumed power, the AFRC has been able to get its [words indistinct] free port out of the blue and they can still [words indistinct].

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**13 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 13 June, 07:00 GMT**

The AFRC has issued a notice reassuring citizens that persistent rumors of imminent air raids and attacks by ECOMOG which have resulted in a mass exodus of people from within the city are baseless and without foundation. According to the notice, any such threat is a figment of imagination of ill-motivated people.

It states further that the Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha, who is also the ECOWAS chairman, has consented to receive a high-powered delegation from the AFRC, who will be putting their case across.

Reacting to a statement by Dr. James Jonah over the BBC Network Africa that members of the AFRC requested money and other material inducement in return of abandoning the revolution and leaving the country, the notice states that the AFRC's reason for overthrowing the Kabbah regime was not based on selfishness.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**14 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 14 June, 15:00 GMT**

It has come to the notice of the AFRC Secretariat that some irresponsible persons have started intimidating and harassing relatives and families of former politicians and even religious leaders. Some have also resorted to smearing the character and integrity of highly placed persons in the community.

The AFRC wants it to be known that the revolution is not out to witch hunt anybody, be it a relative or a friend of former politicians and religious leaders. Those engaged in such actions should stop immediately or strict disciplinary actions will be taken against them. Any member of the general public so affected should please report to the AFRC Secretariat or telephone No. 27-27-07.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**15 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 15 June, 19:16 GMT**

[Important announcement from the office of the Inspector General of Police] The Inspector General of Police reminds the public that the public order act relating to processions, rallies and demonstrations is still in force and that any group of persons wishing to process, demonstrate, or hold a rally must seek approval from the Inspector General of Police. Anyone who holds a rally, processes, or demonstrates without permission will be severely dealt with.

**SLBS Radio, 15 June, 16:40 GMT**

[Commentary by Dr. Baba Conteh, an unidentified Sierra Leonean citizen in Freetown] I, Dr. Cande Baba Conteh, have come on the air again but this time to analyze the much-talked-about civil disorder. My dear Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters, Sierra Leone, our beloved country, is at the brink of disintegration if we allow personal interests and group interests to overcome our general interest at this crucial stage of the country's history which are the preservation of peace achieved with the end the war and to defend our national integrity as Sierra Leoneans.

At the moment, there are talks about civil disorder in the country within certain circles of our society and in the international media. Have we ever thought of what our present situation would have been without the Nigeria-led ECOMOG intervention? You will agree with me that the peace achieved through the fraternity between the AFRC and the RUF will have been preserved and our national pride not belittled? People will have been engaged in normal activities. These were made impossible because of the military intervention against our motherland.

In philosophy, among other categories, we have the category of cause and result. Most of the time, people take the cause for the result or vice versa. At this juncture, I would like to determine the positions of the revolution, the intervention, the peace achieved on national integrity as regards their roles as cause or result of the much talked about civil disorder.

The civil disorder in our situation is not the result of the revolution but the result of the Nigerian-led ECOMOG military intervention.

The peace achieved by the AFRC is the result of the revolution and the revolution is the cause for peace. The causes of the revolution were the shortcomings of the former government which were clearly expressed in our media prior to the revolution to the extent that some of these newspapers even called for the resignation of the former government.



First, the much-talked-about civil disorder which former President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and some sections of our society and the international community are capitalizing on is a fuss. The civil disorder is not a protest against the peace achieved and our national pride but because of the threat of foreign intervention. People don't go to work and are fleeing the country not because of the peace achieved but out of fear that they could be killed this time not by the RUF but by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG bands. You will agree with me that no conscious human being will protest against having peace and national pride.

In one of the BBC Network African programs, the minister of foreign affairs of Nigeria, when asked how can Nigeria bring democracy to Sierra Leone when Nigerians are banned from protesting against the annulment of the elections won by Abiola four years ago, said they are solving things their own way. The way we achieve peace is unique, not only in Africa, but the world at large. First, we solved it our own way and now Nigeria, I will assure you, wants us to lose everything gained in our own way. Fellow Sierra Leoneans, we have solved our problems our own way and should be prepared to preserve it from any military intervention in the name of our motherland.

Secondly, the minister said if they don't intervene, neighboring countries will not be safe. I would just like us as Sierra Leoneans to think again as to what will have happened there was no military intervention. Things would have been perfectly at peace and we would not have been a threat to our neighbors. The Nigerian-led ECOMOG intervention is making our people remain refugees in neighboring countries, thus creating economic and social problems with the tendency of a negative result in this country's political stability. Our mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, brothers, and sisters have been forced to be refugees in another land. This also belittles our pride as a nation. How long can we long for our close ones? Instead of developing our land devastated by six years' war, our people have been forced to flee not because of the RUF but because of foreigners who will kill and destroy anything Sierra Leonean and go back to their beautiful cities for us to remain and rebuild our country.

Fellow countrymen, religious bodies, the Sierra Leone Labor Congress, Sierra Leone Teachers Union, Sierra Leone Students Union, the Bar Association, especially the banking institutions, the Sierra Leone Professional Drivers Association, Medical and Dental Association, and all other equally important institutions I may have left out, and all Sierra Leoneans, I am imploring that we put aside personal and group interests and think about the general interest which should be the preservation of peace achieved with the end of the war with the RUF and our national integrity. Don't choose their target. Its [word indistinct] are uncontrollable when we leave. What will we gain if we all run away to come back and find our country reduced to stones by bombs? It is in this regard I continue to implore the whole nation to see reason and always come out at all times to resist any foreign military intervention in the morning, afternoon, evening, and night.

The latest shootings at Lungi on Tuesday [10 June] night must be a lesson to us that in the future, we must be ready at all times to come out, even at night, if the intervention starts at night. It must be a lesson also that we must defend the peace achieved and our national integrity so that we, Sierra Leoneans, will be looked upon as patriots and not cowards of our motherland.

This situation we find ourselves is also a test that portrays the image of true Sierra Leoneans and our love for our motherland. We have made a name in the international community by resisting the first attack. If we fail, we will be mocked by this same international community as traitors of our motherland. In the name of our motherland, I thank you all.

**SLBS Radio, 15 June, 15:00 GMT**

[An important public announcement] Government has noted with great concern the uncontrollable sale of petrol in containers by petrol dealers all over the city of Freetown. Ample evidence still exists that petrol sold in containers are being hoarded for black market sales. Apart from the fact that this dangerous and selfish act is inimical to public interest, the public is also reminded that it is illegal for petroleum products and other inflammable agents to be stored or hoarded by unauthorized persons. The massive stockpiling of petrol in very unsafe environment poses a very serious risk of fire outbreaks in the city and threatens the lives and well-being of peaceful and law-abiding citizens.

Government, therefore, directs that with immediate effect, all sales of petrol in containers should cease forthwith. Anyone caught involved in or aiding and abetting such illegal sales transaction will be severely dealt with. All managers and proprietors of petrol sales outlets are particularly advised to personally monitor all sales of petrol since they will be held directly responsible in the event of any violation of this directive, prohibiting the sale of petrol in containers.

The public is informed that law enforcement officers have been mandated to enforce the directive to effectively stop all illegal sale of petrol in containers, including the apprehension and detention of all violators and their accomplices, and the confiscation of whatever quantity of petrol is involved in the illegal transaction.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**16 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 16 June, 20:30 GMT**

Eight SLPP [Sierra Leone People's Party] stalwarts were this morning arrested and brought down to Defense Headquarters for attempts to incite the high command of the RUF to overthrow the AFRC government and (?restore) Alhaji Tejan Kabbah in power. According to one of the suspects, who acts as coordinator, Dauda Bundi, the suspects, which comprise Dr. Saba Banya, Dr. B.M. Kobah, Abdulai Wutufa, (Ankah Mansaray), (Dr. Sam Jones), (M.C. Kamara), and (Vandi Munsiray), wanted the RUF to cooperate with the Nigerian Army to overthrow the AFRC government. [sentence as heard] Dauda Bundi spoke of the meeting with Colonel (Sory Bosaray) alias Mosquito and with (Jonas Salingo) Superman in which they promised to give them 2 million leones and in the first instance, with the understanding that after the successful conclusion of the overthrow, they will be offered 20 million leones. He named the background to the entire arrangement, how he was charged to contact Colonel (Jonas Salingo) by Dr. Kobah and their meeting with other suspects.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**19 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 19 June, 20:00 GMT**

A high-powered delegation from the Government of Ghana arrived here this afternoon headed by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Honorable Philip Gbeho, on a fact-finding mission. He is accompanied by the former high commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to Sierra Leone, Major General [name indistinct] and two other Foreign Ministry officials. [Words indistinct] message from Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings that they will be delivering tomorrow to the chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] Major Johnny Paul Koromah.

SLBS Radio, 19 June, 20:00 GMT

A large-scale military operation codenamed Operation Mice Catch, to capture AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] chairman and head of state, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, and his key players has been unearthed in Freetown.

A release issued today by the AFRC Secretariat said the former Deputy Defense Minister Sam Hinga Norman has made it possible [words indistinct] and relations with Kamajors. Under Sierra Leonean mercenaries and Nigerian troops backed by artillery from Monrovia after three [words indistinct] weapons from the commander and other officials of the Nigerian Government. The arms and ammunition, the release adds, were to be conveyed to the new area in the Pujehun District yesterday with the assistance of the Nigerians while Hinga Norman was flown back to Guinea on board the Nigerian Army helicopter.

The release further adds that large quantities of used clothing would be issued to the Kamajors and the hired mercenaries for possible infiltration into Freetown. The release drew the attention of the international community and the general public to this awkward development, and emphasized that what is happening now is not in the name of democracy but to breed civil war in Sierra Leone.

The AFRC, the release adds, was shocked that these moves were orchestrated by Dr. Tejan Kabbah, Dr. James Jonah, and the Nigerian foreign minister, Tom Ikimi. The AFRC, the release continued, reaffirms its commitment to lasting peace, and urges all friends of Sierra Leone and the international community to prevail on Nigeria to give peace a chance in Sierra Leone.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**20 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 20 June, 07:00 GMT**

More demonstrations of solidarity with the AFRC's [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] 25 May revolution continue to be made by various groups at Defense Headquarters. The Youth Coalition for Peace and Democracy yesterday added its voice to the numerous organizations congratulating the AFRC chairman, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, and associating itself with the aspirations of the revolution. [passage omitted] The head of state called on the international community to make use of the opportunity now offered by the merging of the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] and AFRC to ensure that the peace that is achieved is consolidated.

Major Koroma spoke of the diplomatic efforts being made by the government to resolve the current crisis, adding that the AFRC is asking for an emergency summit of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] so that a fact-finding mission can be sent to Sierra Leone to get a firsthand assessment of the situation [word indistinct]. He noted that the country has been at war for six years, and the international community, including ECOWAS, the OAU, and the Commonwealth have all made [words indistinct] so that lasting peace can finally be obtained, the chairman added. The head of state emphasized that if we don't make use of this opportunity, it will take us a long time to get another opportunity.

Major Koroma spoke of the broadbased government he intends to set up and assured all Sierra Leoneans of their freedom, as well as a free and unfettered press. The head of state appealed to the kamajors to come on board and (?join) the AFRC in the achievement of peace. Major Koroma noted that in spite of the genuine peace overtures made by the AFRC to bring the kamajors on board, [words indistinct] are still being by some [word indistinct] officials in consonance with Nigeria to destabilize our already war-torn country.

**SLBS Radio, 20 June, 07:00 GMT**

Here is a press release: It has come to the notice of the AFRC Secretariat that drivers of commercial vehicles within the city have unilaterally decided to raise fares even though the price of fuel remains the same. This act is unacceptable. All transport fares before the revolution remain the same. Any passenger who is charged extra fare is advised to take the number of such vehicle and report to the nearest police station, making sure he or she has concrete proof. The police have been empowered to impound such vehicles. Drivers of commercial vehicles are admonished to desist from such unscrupulous behavior.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**21 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 21 June, 07:00 GMT**

A high-powered Ghanaian Government delegation which is in Sierra Leone to hold discussions with the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC, government this morning met the chairman and head of state, Major Johnny Paul Koroma. Addressing the delegation which is led by the Ghanaian deputy foreign minister, Mr. Victor Gbeho, at the Defense Headquarters, Major Johnny Koroma expressed appreciation on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone to Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings for being the first brotherly head of state to send a delegation to see and assess the situation since the 25 May revolution. The chairman informed the delegation that their line of action on 25 May was not prompted by any selfish motive but purely for the good of Sierra Leone. The head of state noted that Major General Twumasi, who was [the] Ghanaian high commissioner to Sierra Leone and part of the delegation, would testify that this country went [words indistinct] for a period of six years and thanked God that the country can now breath a sign of relief that peace has now come to the country. The head of state looked forward to the contribution of the international community for the consolidation of the peace already achieved for the good of Sierra Leone and hoped that the delegation's visit would achieve a breakthrough in the present impasse and that the conclusions they will arrive at will be the bedrock for the future of Sierra Leone wherein peace will be given a chance.

[Words indistinct], the delegation was fully briefed on the specific reasons and justification of the coup. The chairman noted that the coup was timely, [word indistinct], and spontaneous and stressed that the country was almost at the brink of a bloodbath when they intervened to avert the impending danger. The Ghanaian deputy foreign minister said his delegation was here among other things to offer (?reaction) to an AFRC government delegation that went to Ghana and was received by the Ghanaian head of state. He noted that the Ghanaian Government received the Sierra Leone delegation because of its belief in fairness and justice which was a constant of the Ghanaian revolution. Mr. Gbeho said his delegation was in pursuit of the belief of the Ghanaian head of state that as a country they should pursue dialogue with a view to finding peaceful settlement of the problems of Sierra Leone. He emphasized that the delegation is not here to tell the AFRC leadership what to do but to share their experience and exchange views so that a practicable and credible solution to the impasse will be sought.

The Ghanaian deputy minister was happy to note that the Nigerian foreign minister is holding consultations with leaders of the subregion to establish an ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] contact group to promote interaction with the AFRC. He stressed that Ghana has always preferred a peaceful negotiated settlement because [words indistinct]. Mr. Gbeho emphasized that any military option will be bloody and will only result in destruction and devastation of the beautiful city of Freetown, noting that those who rush into military intervention will be the first to change the [word indistinct].

The Ghanaian delegation included former Ghanaian high commissioner to Sierra Leone, Maj. Gen. Twumasi, who is [the] Ghanaian ambassador to Egypt; Mr. S.D. Alhasan, deputy director of African and OAU Bureau, and his assistant, Mr. Harry Grant, both of the Ghanaian Foreign Ministry.

**SLBS Radio, 21 June, 07:00 GMT**

The acting leader of the People's Army, Colonel Sam Bockarie commonly called Mosquito, has refuted a BBC Focus on Africa report on Thursday [19 June] that an AFRC delegation to Gambia led by him was under strict security surveillance in that country. In an interview with the Government Information Services, GIS, Colonel Bockarie described the report as baseless and unfounded, adding that he was in Freetown when the report was aired. The interim leader reiterated the People's Army's commitment toward [words indistinct] in Sierra Leone and maintained that they appreciated the olive branch extended to them by AFRC, noting that with this [words indistinct] social justice would be achieved. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Collins of the People's Army and a member of the AFRC Ruling Council has strongly denounced any form of military intervention in Sierra Leone's political affairs, noting that such a move will not only disturb the existing peace but also claim the lives of innocent and [word indistinct] defenseless people in the country.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**26 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 26 June, 20:00 GMT**

AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] Council Member Retired Brigadier M.L. Lymon has been appointed supervisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Addressing senior and junior staff members of the Foreign Ministry, Ret. Brig. Lymon called on staff members to map out rational and productive foreign policies and to repair the soured relationship with the international community.

Retired Brigadier Lymon described the Foreign Ministry as a very vital arm that will provide a mechanism that will reestablish excellent [word indistinct] with the outside world in this crucial moment. The Foreign Ministry supervisor said although the lifespan of the present government may be short, they want to leave an enduring [word indistinct] for consolidating peace and enhancing development, devoid of tribalism and nepotism.

**SLBS Radio, 26 June, 07:00 GMT**

The Secretary-General of the AFRC, Colonel A.K. Sesay, has assured State House workers that the junta will leave no stone unturned in bringing peace and security to this nation. Col. Sesay told the staff that it is God's will that the RUF spontaneously accepted the olive branch extended to them by the army to get out of the bush and join in national reconstruction. The AFRC secretary general assured the staff that even if they succeed in bringing lasting peace to the nation within three months, they will return to their barracks and do the job they are trained to do. Col. Sesay urged employees to reason with some [words indistinct] holders and expressed the need to come together and settle our differences in our traditional African way.

The special assistant to the chairman of the AFRC, Mr. Patrick Vogly, reaffirmed that the new junta has not come to victimize people but to approach the deep-rooted malaise of society. Mr. Vogly said anything that was done in the past regime will not be [words indistinct] and urged personnel to be committed, disciplined, and responsible in the discharge of their duties. The special assistant said once that is done, then a solid foundation for development would have been made. The State House employees highlighted several problems which Mr. Vogly promised to intimate the chairman with.



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**20 June 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 29 June, 07:00 GMT**

AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] Secretary General Colonel Abdul K. Sesay, yesterday addressed the executive of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union on the background to the 25 May revolution and the current developments in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the chairman, Colonel Sesay apologized to the (?doyens) of the union for any inconveniences they might have gone through during the 25 May exercise. The AFRC secretary general noted that since the 25 May revolution, the AFRC has been calling on friendly nations and the international community to come to Sierra Leone to assess the situation on the ground. He thanked the Ghanaian Government who, on the basis of their principle of [words indistinct] and justice, sent a fact-finding delegation to Sierra Leone to get a first-hand assessment in the ground. Colonel A.K. Sesay noted that this delegation was able to see the reality of the situation as opposed to the negative picture given to the outside world.

It is in this same vein, Colonel Sesay went on, that the AFRC government welcomes the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] fact-finding mission expected in Freetown so that they can get a first-hand assessment of our situation. He described the situation in Sierra Leone as unique and an eye-opener in conflict resolution, and hoped that the international community will seize the opportunity to help consolidate the peace that has been achieved through [words indistinct] between the AFRC and the People's Army.

Colonel Sesay reminded the teachers union of their importance in nation building and looked forward to their cooperation in the interest of the children. The AFRC secretary general emphasized that [words indistinct] of the AFRC is the achievement of sustainable peace because, as he put it, genuine development and democracy can only thrive in an atmosphere of peace. He noted that since the (?merger) between the people's Army and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, there has not been any reported case of RUF [Revolutionary United Front] attack. Colonel Sesay spoke of the mistrust and lack of confidence the RUF had had with all the previous governments in their peace (?overtures.)

The president of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union, Mr. Festus Minah, read a prepared speech which was [words indistinct]. Mr. Minah spoke of the security situation in the country and called on government to address it. The acting secretary general, Mr. Davidson Kuyate, who moved the vote of thanks, emphasized the need for an amicable solution to the crisis.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**1 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 1 July 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] and head of state, Major Johnny Paul Koromah, has addressed the People's Army at the (?Benguema) Training Center. The head of state commended the People's Army for the exemplary manner in which they have been conducting themselves and hoped they will not be misled by some politicians who are enemies of the state. Maj. Koromah informed them that the government is aware of their current situation and appealed for patience as the government is doing everything possible to address their problems.

The head of state drew their attention to the events of the 25 May revolution, which he said has created the background for permanent peace in Sierra Leone. He told them that the government is using all the diplomatic channels for the release of their leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh, who is currently being held in Nigeria, to join the AFRC government in finding permanent peace in our country.

The head of state noted that if it were not for the Nigerian aggression, they would have been far ahead in solving the problems, especially in integrating them into the society. This program, he said, will soon commence, and disclosed that all members of the People's Army will soon be registered so that the government will have a (?fair) knowledge as to how and where they can be integrated.

The [words indistinct] heads of the People's Army expressed their satisfaction for the chairman's concern for their welfare and pledged their unflinching loyalty and support to him and his government. They raised issues [word indistinct] their welfare, including accommodation and clothing, as well as medicines for the wounded. Before his departure, the chairman and his entourage visited two medical [word indistinct], where the sick and wounded members of the People's Army were temporarily admitted.

[passage omitted]

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**7 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 7 July 1997, 20:05 GMT**

[Press release from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Secretariat] It has come to the notice of the AFRC Secretariat that a certain radio station has been set up within the borders of this country. It has already informed those who have heard it that it intends to make certain statements which, to all intents and purposes, would be construed as official--that it is representing the AFRC. The AFRC Secretariat wishes it to be known that this is an infringement of the territorial integrity of Sierra Leone. The AFRC calls on all peace-loving Sierra Leoneans to be calm and to continue to be law-abiding. The position of this pirate radio station has been located. The public is hereby warned that statements which may be broadcast on this radio station should not be considered as official but must be seen and regarded as propaganda designed to disrupt the peaceful citizens of this country.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**13 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 13 July 1997, 20:00 GMT**

Four civilians including a fifth form pupil of the Muslim Congress Secondary School, Julius Agbomo, have lost their lives as a result of the bombardment by Nigerian jets in some parts of Wellington village. The bombardment which occurred on Saturday [12 July] evening and hit the (?Bottom Oku Community), a densely civilian populated area, also critically injured about 50 other people, mostly children and women, who are now admitted at the 34 Military Hospital. Narrating their ordeal, the mother of one of the deceased, Julius Agbomo, Mrs. Aisatu Agbomo, said they were in their verandah after having their evening meal when they heard the sound of a jet. Seconds later, there was a loud explosion which threw all of them apart. There was a thick smoke and when the dust died down, she noticed blood on all parts of her body. Before she could get over the shock, she saw her two children struggling in a pool of blood. The elder, Julius, was already dead whilst his younger brother, Michael, was inflicted with injuries all over his body. The explosion also injured her ward, Nasur Yamba, on her neck. All the houses within the vicinity were also badly damaged. Mr. Ibrahim Wahid Massaquoi, a caretaker of one of the houses, also narrated a similar story about the extent of damage caused by the shelling.

At the 34 Military Hospital, the commanding officer, Forces Medical Services, Colonel (David Sesay), told reporters that the bombardment occurred yesterday. He was at the hospital when he started receiving civilian casualties with various injuries caused by the bombardment. Dr.(Sesay) said the injuries ranged right across the board from the head, chest, stomach, as well as the extremities. Col. (Sesay) said in all, they have admitted over 50 people of whom three were received dead due to the explosion. As a result of this bombardment, hundreds of people milled around the 34 Military Hospital to enquire about the state of their relatives and friends. Members of the AFRC [Armed Forces Ruling Council] ruling council also visited the hospital to console the victims.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**14 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 14 July 1997**

[Statement by AFRC Secretary-General A.K. Sesay] Dear Friends and Countrymen, the events of the past few days have drawn blood, tears, anguish and outrage from the hearts and the souls of every true and peace-loving Sierra Leonean. Notwithstanding the fact that in the course of the past six years, our country has been bled to near collapsing point of both her vital human and material resources, notwithstanding the fact that the people of Sierra Leone have over the many years looked at the people of Nigeria not only as their own brothers and sisters but also as their closest allies, the Nigerian Army and Airforce have gone into action over the weekend at Jui and in the east end of Freetown, wreaking death and destruction on our innocent civilians.

Last Saturday, the Nigerian Airforce in an act of blatant provocation flew their fighter jets low over our beloved capital city, Freetown and in an act of depraved malice and cruel calculation, dropped bombs on our city, killing, wounding, maiming and distressing scores of our citizens including babies, women and school children, and destroying inestimable amounts of property. The lives of our wives, husbands, our children, our loved ones, our friends, our neighbours have been taken without just cause; the blood of our people has been shed by a bunch of desperate and evil men, namely by trigger-happy Nigerian soldiers.

May God repay in like terms these heartless and cruel men. What have we done to deserve this; what do they want in our country?

On behalf of his excellency the chairman, Major Johnny Paul Koromah and on behalf of all members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the People's Army, I wish to express our deepest condolences to the loved ones of those who have lost their lives in this senseless carnage. Our heartfelt sympathy also goes to the many injured and disabled who have been so bitterly distressed by a bunch of misinformed bandits flying the Nigerian flag. God in his mercy will succur and console you all.

To those who have been advocating for a military intervention as a solution, I say upon their heads be the lives and well-being of the many who have been killed and wounded as a result of this Nigerian atrocity. People of Sierra Leone, at least eighty (80) people were killed on June 2nd in this city as a result of Nigeria's naval bombardment. A couple of hundred people died in the ensuing aggression by Nigerian troops at Lungi. I shudder to think of the number of lives that will be lost should Nigeria be allowed to launch a full scale military invasion of our country. You and I may very well be among the dead this time. The United Nations Security Council knows this, that is why they have said categorically no to any military intervention in our country.

Let us all come together and tell Nigeria to go away and leave us alone to settle our affairs by ourselves. We have done it before and we can do it again Let them go and remove the mote in their own eye before they attempt to cure the beam in the eyes of others.

Let us tell Tejan Kabbah that if his intention is to wade back to power in our blood, the blood of his people, then he cannot be a true Sierra Leonean and he is not worthy of carrying the title of president of our republic. He can only carry the dishonour of enemy of the people of Sierra Leone. Let us as a united country beg the international community to pressurise the Nigerians to stand by the Security Council decision, to respect our territorial integrity and to leave our soil, for they have killed enough of our people.

In conclusion, I want to give you every assurance that the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, the armed forces of our republic and the People's Army shall leave no effort untapped, no stone unturned, to restore lasting peace and security to our land. This we promise in God's name.

I thank you.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**15 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 15 July 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The chief secretary of state, Captain S.A.J. Musa, and the secretaries, and the under secretaries of state yesterday took the oath of office before the chairman and head of state, Major Johnny Paul Koromah, to serve in the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] government. The head of state reminded them that they have taken a very great responsibility to serve the nation and as such they couldn't afford to fail. He urged them to work diligently in the interest of the people of the country. On behalf of his colleagues, Capt. S.A.J. Musa thanked the chairman for the honor and trust conferred on them, especially when Sierra Leone is going through its serious hour. The chief secretary of state assured the chairman that they would ensure that their mission, which is to ensure a durable and everlasting peace for the people of this country, is [word indistinct]. Capt. Musa has no doubts that it is an uphill task which demands strength, commitment, and devotion to achieve. The chairman for the occasion, secretary general of the AFRC, Colonel Abdulkarim Seesay, told the members of the Council of Secretaries that yesterday's official (?consent) for establishment of the AFRC government [word indistinct] and therefore empowered to assume their full responsibilities. The ceremony, which was held at the presidential lounge of the national stadium, was attended by Supreme Council members as well as friends and relatives of the newly sworn-in secretaries of state.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**17 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 17 July 1997, 07:00 GMT**

A high-powered AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] Government delegation invited by the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, to hold negotiations with the Foreign Ministry ECOWAS Contact Group, aimed at finding an amicable and peaceful solution to the current impasse in Sierra Leone, left for the Ivorian capital, Abidjan, last evening.

The delegation, which is led by the foreign minister, Dr. Paulo Bangura, includes the attorney general and secretary of state judicial affairs, Mr. A. Manley-Spaine; Supreme Council member, Sergeant (Danbura Warri), the acting secretary of state, agriculture, Mr. F.Y.B. Rogers; the chief of military staff, Brigadier D.K. Anderson, and the under secretary of state, Mineral Resources, Captain Paul Thomas.

The delegation also comprises Ambassador Dauda S. Kamara; the public relations officer, Aliyu B. Camara; deputy director of foreign affairs, Mr. William Bangura; and the secretary to the chairman, Mr. (M.P. Kampagnol).

Other members of the list include the deputy chairman of the AFRC, Corporal Foday Saybannah Sankoh, Dr. John Karefa-Smart, and Dr. Abbas Bundu. The four-nation ECOWAS group comprises the Republic of Togo, La Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria.

**SLBS Radio, 17 July 1997, 07:00 GMT**

Government has assured the public that there is no scarcity of rice in the country to warrant an indiscriminate price increase. In a statement issued yeaterday, rice sellers were adviced to ensure that the bag of rice is sold between 22 and 25,000 leones, and that depending on the quality. The statement said that the office of the Chairman of AFRC has learned with dismay that certain unscrupulous business houses have increased the price of rice indiscriminately. It also assured the public that a shipment of rice is expected shortly to ensure the availability of rice in the markets.



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**18 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 18 July 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The Secretary-General of the AFRC, Colonel A.K. Sesay, has expressed the government's deepest condolences to relatives of those who died in last weekend's incident at Jui at the east end of Freetown. In the government's statement blaming the Nigerian Army and Air Force for provoking the situation, Col. Sesay also conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to all victims of the weekend event. The statement called on all Sierra Leoneans as a united country to get the international community to pressurize the Nigerians to stand by the Security Council's decision to respect our territorial integrity and to leave our soil. It also assured everyone that the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, the Armed Forces of our country, and the People's Army shall do everything to restore lasting peace and security to our land.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**22 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 22 July 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The Chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] and Head of State, Major Johnny Paul Koromah, has asked members of the People's Army and the special task force of the Sierra Leonean military forces at [name indistinct] to abide by the decisions taken at the just-concluded Abidjan meeting on Sierra Leone, [and] to cease all hostilities in the interest of peace. The Chairman noted that since negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the current (?impasse) in Sierra Leone have started, it is (?most) necessary that we all abide by the resolutions of the conference, but at the same time, he said, they should be vigilant.

The Head of State also admonished them to comport themselves in a very exemplary manner so as to gain the respect and confidence of the civilian population. He told them that they will be judged by the way they comport themselves in public, and should also restrict their movement in the city as parading with guns in the city can frighten the civilian population.

Major Koromah further called on them to adhere strictly to the chain of command, and first assure that the [words indistinct] before they enter into the city. He emphasized that the honeymoon is now over and so all commandeering of vehicles, and vehicles parading aimlessly in the city, and also [word indistinct] of military personnel in vehicles should stop.

To members of the People's Army, the Head of State assured them that the government is using all diplomatic efforts to ensure that their leader, Corporal Foday Saybannah Sankoh, is released so that he can join in the government and its socioeconomic development process. He told them that he is also (?pleased) with their progress and will treat them accordingly. The AFRC Chairman advised them to be patient and show understanding, and told them to behave as combatants with [words indistinct].

Earlier, the Chairman, who was accompanied by the PLO of Army Staff, Sergeant Abu Sankoh, Supreme Council members, Sergeant Gborie and Sergeant George Adams, was received at [name indistinct] training center by the Army Chief of Staff, Colonel S.O. Williams, and the commander, Lieutenant Colonel A.S. Kargbo.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**29 July 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 29 July 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC, secretariat, today released all political detainees who were in custody at the Freetown central prison. The released detainees include veteran politicians and members of the Council of Consolidation of Peace, D. Samba Banya and Bockari Kobba.

It should be recalled that they were arrested and detained at the Central Prison over a month ago for their alleged involvement in the coup plot to overthrow the government of Major Johnny Paul Koromah. According to the AFRC Secretariat, the political detainees were released on the order of the AFRC chairman.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**3 August 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 3 August 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The People's Army has refuted a BBC report that the head of state and chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] is under house arrest and can only take orders from the People's Army. In a statement to the nation, Lieutenant Gilbert Collins of the People's Army said that the BBC statement is not only meant to damage the good relationship between the national Army and the People's Army, but to plunge the entire country into another pool of blood.

He also assured the nation that the People's Army remains committed to peace. Lt. Collins explained that since the Liberian war which started in 1991, the past regimes have failed to bring solace to the (?inhabitants) of the land. He said the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council] junta turned down the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] offer for peace and claimed they can fight the RUF on land, air, and sea.

Lt. Collins described the chairman, AFRC, as a free born patriotic citizen who shares common ideals with the People's Army in bringing peace, economic regeneration, and development to Sierra Leone. He assured everyone that the AFRC remains committed to the peaceful atmosphere created by the chairman, AFRC, and will not stand back to see the downfall of this opportunity by any propaganda.

He accused some unpatriotic citizens and politicians of finding ways and means of tarnishing the image of our country through propaganda. Lt. Collins affirmed that the leadership of Major Johnny Paul Koroma is well recognised by the People's Army and it is a calculated lie for people to claim that he is under house arrest.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**7 August 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 7 August 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] Secretariat today assured Sierra Leoneans that no country or organization in the world has imposed any legal sanction on our country. A press release from the secretariat points out that the Security Council was last night quoted as saying that no specific sanctions have been imposed on our country. According to the release, the statements that economic sanctions and air and sea embargo have been imposed on Sierra Leone were aimed at creating panic and fear among the peaceful citizens of this country.

**SLBS Radio, 7 August 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The chairman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council [AFRC] and head of state, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, has said that his government is exploring all diplomatic means to resume a negotiated settlement of the country's current political impasse.

The chairman, who was addressing the executive of the (Kalaba) Town Women's Association this morning in (Kalaba) Town, observed that although the AFRC government is working frantically to ensure lasting peace and development in the country, some unpatriotic and ill-motivated Sierra Leoneans both at home and abroad are secretly undermining his government's aspirations. He also said that had it not been for the presence of the Nigerian mercenaries in the country, which he said is posing a threat on the lives of the innocent and defenseless people of the country, Sierra Leone, would have achieved lasting peace and development.

Major Koroma called on every peace-loving Sierra Leonean to put aside tribalism, sectionalism, and political affiliation, and demonstrate a sense of patriotism. He assured them of the availability of essential commodities and electricity supply in the shortest possible time.

In her remarks, a member of the association, Madam Azato Sindika Fofana, appealed to the head of state to assist the (Kalaba) Town community with a hospital, market, and police station, and pledged the association's unflinching support and loyalty to the AFRC.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**12 August 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 12 August 1997, 20:00 GMT**

Another merchant vessel with well over 13,000 metric tons of rice has arrived at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown. The acting secretary of state for trade, industry, and state enterprises, Mr. Mohammed Alikali Bangura, on behalf of the chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council], extended heart-felt felicitation to the captain and his crew. He reiterated the AFRC's commitment to peace, noting that with peace and tranquility Sierra Leone will achieve development and social justice.

Mr. Bangura expressed the AFRC's concern about the welfare of every Sierra Leonean, especially the less privileged and gave the assurance that the rice will be sold at an affordable price. He invited the captain to visit the city with a view to assessing the security situation in the country so that he can serve as his country's unofficial ambassador to all the shipping companies and the outside world.

Mr. Bangura was welcomed on board the vessel by the captain, Vladislav Velchav and later taken on a conducted tour of the various sections. News about the arrival of the merchant vessel sparked off jubilation from market women and consumers. The last consignment of about 7,000 metric tons of rice, which arrived in Freetown less than two weeks ago, was greeted with enthusiasm by a cross-section of the community.

The arrival of this additional consignment of rice is seen by traders as a demonstration of government's efforts in ensuring the availability in the markets of the country of rice and other essential commodities.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**13 August 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 13 August 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] has condemned the murder yesterday of a civilian along (Ross Road). In a statement condemning such actions and expressing condolences to the relatives of the victim, the AFRC assured the public that the law will take its full course against such criminals.

The statement also assured the public that everything was being done to ensure the safety and security of everyone. The AFRC statement also expressed grave concern at the practice by people who do not belong to the Armed Forces and who dress in military fatigue, going around committing criminal acts.

**SLBS Radio, 13 August 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] has said that contrary to a front-page article in a foreign newspaper, it does not intend to deport any foreigner. The AFRC assures the public that, while it is a government policy that all foreign nationals endeavor to register, no such action has been taken to deport foreigners.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**22 August 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 22 August 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The Undersecretary of State, Internal Affairs, Major (John Gordon) has called on all Sierra Leoneans to be law-abiding and promote the ideals to (?achieve national unity). In an interview this evening with Sierra Leone News Agency, SLENA, Major (Gordon) emphasized the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] government's commitment to provide lasting peace and security for the nation and appealed to all to contribute meaningfully toward the goal. The call was [words indistinct] and advised them to redirect their efforts toward nation building and national unity which he described as an essential ingredient for development.

Commenting on the recent student disturbances, Major (Gordon) urged students to refrain from any acts that would erode state security, now that the AFRC government was doing everything possible to consolidate the peace with the RUF [Revolutionary United Front].

On attempts by the Civil Defense Forces to create instability in the country, the Undersecretary of State [words indistinct] the AFRC is trying to build a better Sierra Leone.

On the peace accord and the ECOWAS initiatives, Major (Gordon) said there is still room for dialogue and negotiation and encouraged members of ECOWAS to show understanding to the cause of the AFRC and the [word indistinct]. He noted that no amount of military intervention in Sierra Leone will sustain the current peace with the RUF.

About the series of sanctions and embargo, the Undersecretary of State described those actions as inhumane and called on the international community to show understanding and send independent missions to assess the situation in the country. Major [Gordon] urged civil servants to resume work effectively and to put aside party politics [words indistinct].



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**28 August 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 28 August 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The pirate FM 98.4 radio station is reported to be operating from the guest house of Paramount Chief Komkanda II in Kafubullom Chiefdom at Lungi and is heavily guarded by Nigerian troops stationed there. A release issued by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council [AFRC] yesterday said that the AFRC wishes to make it known its high esteem for the chieftaincy institution of the country, especially the traditional role it plays in helping to educate the people of this country at grassroots level. But it is pathetic that Chief Komkanda can be so treacherous as to collaborate with foreign forces to destroy the future of this country.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council government, the release adds, wishes to reiterate that it will never be deterred in its set course of ensuring national peace for the people of Sierra Leone which is the commitment for which May takeover is dedicated. The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council sympathizes with the person of the caliber of Chief Komkanda who has decided to condescend to lower his dignity and integrity of the chieftaincy institution in Sierra Leone and betray the confidence of the people by his collaboration with an aggressive and hostile foreign force that is merely bent on and even determined to destroy, loot, and turn this country into a counterpoint for drug trafficking.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council government, the release adds, is never deterred or in any way affected by the propaganda activities for which the pirate radio station was established. It has not changed anything in the country, and will never change the course of the revolution.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, the release concludes, is sure that posterity will judge the likes of Chief Komkanda II and the AFRC government and, therefore, the government is [words indistinct] at their hypocritical attitude [words indistinct] render an adverse judgment against them.

**SLBS Radio, 28 August 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The Nigerian contingent based in Lungi has embarked on a desperate attempt to provoke a war in the country prior to the commencement of the ECOWAS meeting to be held in Abuja, the Nigerian capital. Several long-range missiles were fired from Lungi International Airport at 10 PM on Tuesday [26 August] with the obvious intention of hitting the military barracks at Murray Town.

These missiles missed their targets and hit civilian residential quarters in Murray Town, damaging the private residence of one-time minister of the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling

Council] government, Mr. (Sam Manike II). Several persons were also wounded and others feared dead.

According to a released issued by the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council], government wishes to bring this development to the attention of all peace-loving Sierra Leoneans, that this act can, on the part of the Nigerians, constitute undue aggression against the peaceful citizens of Sierra Leone and violate international laws on the sovereignty of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

These Nigerians, the release adds, failing in all their desperate attempts to take over this country by the use of force, have now resorted to terrorist acts against the peaceful people of Sierra Leone, killing innocent civilians.

According to the release, the government of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council is also aware of the plan by the Nigerian force to cause disturbances in the country between now and the 29th of August.

We advise these Nigerians, who have no use for their own lives, to leave the people of Sierra Leone alone. We believe that it would be more productive for these despondent soldiers to direct their own efforts (?to fighting) the oppressive, dictatorial regime of Sani Abacha, and reverse the coup he staged in 1993, and restore the democratically elected government of Chief Moshood Abiola who has been in detention since he won the elections of 12 June 1993.

The Nigerians, the release adds, have no democratic example to demonstrate to us as a people, and we know that their aggressive acts are not geared toward bringing democracy to Sierra Leone but to convert Sierra Leone into a drug center from where they can transit their international drug network.

Sierra Leoneans, the release concludes, are intelligent people who can mobilize their own resources and find solutions to their own problems. We don't need these Nigerians to come and kill innocent people under any false pretexts.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**1 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 1 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The Chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] and Head of State, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, has on behalf of the government and people of Sierra Leone expressed deep condolence to Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom on the tragic death of Princess Diana.

The message of sympathy to the queen and people of the kingdom described the princess as the embodiment of virtues which concern so many ordinary human creatures. It said Princess Diana will always be remembered by the people of Sierra Leone for her compassion with the [word indistinct] suffering, and the destitute as well as her stance against the use of land mines.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**3 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 3 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The government today drew the attention of the public and the international community to the resumption of bombardment by Nigerian forces who occupy the Lungi Airport. A press release from the AFRC Secretariat said late yesterday evening, at about 6:30 p.m., the Nigerians launched some artillery bombs on the south of Aberdeen, which resulted in the loss of the lives of several persons in that area.

The release adds that these Nigerians also have resumed firing into the sea with the intention of scaring away ships coming into this country. These shots fired into the sea have damaged and led to loss of lives of some of our fishing trawlers and boats that have been going about their normal economic activities.

The government expressed its concern about the unwarranted provocative actions of the Nigerians which have no legal justification. According to the release, these Nigerians have converted the Lungi area into a drug trafficking zone and looted all power equipment in the control tower, [words indistinct] in the airport and [words indistinct] innocent citizens who are beginning to pick up their lives after six years of destructive war.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**4 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 4 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The Chairman and Head of State, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, today joined the thousands of mourners at the national stadium to pay their last respects to 18 of the victims of last night's Nigerian ECOMOG bombardments from the Lungi area. Declaring tomorrow a national holiday to mourn for those who died, Major Johnny Paul Koroma rededicated our nation and submitted it to God. [passage omitted].

Addressing the mourners at the Jampa Stadium, he described the death of the victims as a provocation by the Nigerians and a bid to engage the AFRC in an all-out war into destroying your dear country. Major Koroma observed that the act of the Nigerians was in connivance with heartless and unpatriotic Sierra Leoneans who are poised to regain power at all costs. The AFRC, he noted, is in a position to avenge the death of the innocent lives with all their might but will not do so for the safety of the nation.

Amid deafening applause, Major Koroma however called on the international community to take cognizance of the Nigerian aggression and warned that if steps are not taken to [word indistinct] their dastardly acts, the AFRC will have no alternative but to attack the Nigerians. [passage omitted]

The chairman, accompanied by all the AFRC Supreme Council members, joined the tens of thousands of people at the (Keyta Road Cemetery), where the deceased were buried. [passage omitted]

**SLBS Radio, 4 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The AFRC Secretariat has also condemned the incident, which it described as an unprovoked and brutal attack on innocent civilians. A statement issued today said that since last night, around 10:30 p.m., the Nigerian soldiers began a spate of bombardments that lasted throughout the night and resumed early this morning. It said that this resulted in the death of over 50 people in very densely populated in the eastern part of Freetown.

According to the statement, many of those innocent Sierra Leoneans who lost their lives were women and children, who were attacked in the middle of the night while they were asleep. The AFRC Secretariat said it has, on several occasions, reminded the Nigerians to leave Sierra Leoneans to solve their problems. But the Nigerians have taken the law into their own hands, forcefully occupying our airport, inciting chaos in our country, and causing undue hardship to our people.

The AFRC expressed its condolences and conveyed its deepest sympathies to members of the families of all the people who lost their lives and promised to stand by the bereaved families.

**SLBS Radio, 4 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The People's Revolutionary Bureau has also issued a statement saying Sierra Leoneans are deeply hurt by this inhuman act and have decided to demonstrate in various ways, excluding violence. The People's Revolutionary Bureau has appealed to all peace-loving Sierra Leoneans to avoid all action that will result in chaos. This is the time for all Sierra Leoneans to get up and stand to defend the territorial integrity of our country and remember that the present and future generations of this country have nowhere to call their home but Sierra Leone, the statement added.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**6 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 6 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

Thousands of people converged in the streets of Bo today condemning the occupation of Lungi International Airport by Nigerian troops. The unprecedented crowd, which came from all parts of the southern region, carried placards calling on the international community to withdraw the Nigerian troops from Sierra Leone.

The placards also carried inscriptions for peace, which they indicated has been brought to our doors by the AFRC. The demonstrations, which were followed by a long motorcade, peacefully marched through the main streets to the Bo Coronation Field and Town Hall where the newly elected civilian officials of the newly established AFRC Secretariat in Bo re-educated them on the aims and ideals of the government.

**SLBS Radio, 6 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

An anti-aircraft gun, a [word indistinct] vehicle, and other conventional weapons used by Kamajors in the Tonkolili District, have been surrendered to the AFRC government. The weapons and vehicle, presented to Paramount Chief Baye Sontoba Osara III of Kponkolenken Chiefdom two weeks ago, were yesterday handed over to the government through the commanding officer of the 2d Battalion in the presence of the Secretary of State, North, Major A.M. Koroma, and other dignitaries.

In an interview with the Sierra Leone News Agency, SLENA, Paramount Chief Baye Sontoba Osara III said the Kamajors promised to surrender more weapons, including automatic rifles, with a view to demonstrating their patriotism for peace and national development. The chief commended Major A.M. Koroma for what he described as his relentless efforts in mediating between the Kamajors and the soldiers as peace and sanity now prevail in the region.

The Secretary of State, North, Major A.M. Koroma, and the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel A.G.Y. Mansori, commended the Kamajors' new state of peace and thanked Paramount Chief Baye Sontoba Osara III for his mediation within the entire negotiation exercise. The Secretary of State appealed to the Kamajors in other parts of the country to lay down their arms, noting that as Sierra Leoneans we should avoid any form of conflict negative to peace.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**12 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 12 September 1997, 07:00 GMT**

Bombs fired from a Nigerian Army jet have again claimed the lives of two innocent Sierra Leoneans. The jet attacked the Kissi Terminal, shelling a Sierra Leone vessel Napetco, killing the chief engineer, Mr. Leonard Mathews, and another employee, Mr. Edward Gibbs. The vessel was partly damaged. Reports have it that upon hearing the sound of the jet, both men ran to safety into the vessel, which was undergoing repairs. The Freetown Fire Brigade mustered all its resources to put out the blaze and prevent further damage.

Earlier in the day, the workers had to run for their lives while residents in the area were in disarray.



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**19 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 19 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The AFRC has refuted a frontpage article in The Standard Times headlined: AFRC Acquiesced To Go. A press release, issued by the public relations officer [PRO] today, said the AFRC dissociates itself from such a baseless and unfounded caption in The Standard Times.

The public relations officer made it abundantly clear that such mischievous articles, intended to create panic, hysteria, and confusion will not be tolerated. As they spread the propaganda on sanctions, they must spread propaganda of peace, he added. The PRO further said that hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear, only love and peace can do it. Hatred paralyzes and confuses life, love harmonizes and eliminates hate to [words indistinct].

A similar statement has also been issued by the secretary of state, trade, industry, and state enterprises, Lieutenant Andrew Collins. He describes the Standard Times newspaper's frontpage article as baseless and unfounded. The secretary of state also said that no meeting of such a nature was held between the AFRC and the RUF, now the People's Army, during which a brawl ensued between him and the chief secretary of state because of their different views in finding a lasting solution to the country's political impasse. Lt. Collins said that the publication does not only aim at undermining the existing peace in the country, but also exposes the unprofessionally of the editor by failing to crosscheck his story before publishing it.

The secretary of state emphasized that the AFRC is committed to peace, economic regeneration, and development.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**26 September 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 26 September 1997, 20:00 GMT**

Three people are reported to have died of AIDS this week, while 40 victims were reported dead in Bo in the past year. According to sources close to the AIDS Counseling Unit at the Bo Government Hospital, more than half of the victims were women. Ten of them were men involved in diamond mining in villages around Bo. A popular business woman, who later died of the disease, blamed her husband for his involvement with many street women. Another woman confessed that she had more than seven boyfriends in Freetown.

According to the government information services, this is the highest AIDS casualty figure released by the counseling unit in the last five years. The latest death toll, which observers view as alarming, has now changed the sexual habits of men and women in Bo and its surroundings. Confirmed reports also indicate that Sexually Transmitted Diseases, STD's, are on the increase.

Authorities in some clinics in Bo claim that out of every 100 patients registered in the past year, about 70 of them are infected with the STD. A gynecologist at the Bo Government Hospital attributed it to the high level of promiscuity among women because of the economic trend and the extent of the war.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**16 December 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 16 December 1997, 20:00 GMT**

Some ministries have been merged in the cabinet reshuffle announced yesterday by the AFRC. The Ministry of Works is now merged with the Ministry of Energy and Power, headed by Lieutenant Eldred Collins, while the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs is now linked to the Department of Information, now headed by Mr Kandeh S. Bangura.

Former Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Power, Captain (Stan Ubandia) is now Secretary of State, Trade, Industry and State Enterprises. Dr Baila Leigh, former Secretary of State Health in the NPRC government has been appointed to head the same ministry.

A new cabinet position, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, headed by Reverend David Bangura, was also announced in the reshuffle.

Dr K. R. Kamara, former Secretary of State [word indistinct] has been appointed Secretary of State, Internal Affairs.

New Secretaries of State to promote the regions were also announced. They are Major F.S. (Botu), Secretary of State, North; Major A.F. Kamara, Secretary of State, South; and Captain E.Y.K. (?Mansaray), Secretary of State, East.

The Department of Trade and Industry has been enlarged and has been changed to [word indistinct] under the direct supervision of the Department of Development and Economic Planning, and Mr D. (Kitamu) has been appointed the Director, with Major (Katatanli) as Deputy Director. [passage omitted, including indistinct passage]

**SLBS Radio, 16 December 1997, 20:00 GMT**

The Revolutionary United Sisters Organisation, representing family members and wives of RUF members, have called for the immediate release of their leader and vice chairman of the AFRC, Corporal Foday Saybannah Sankoh. The women, who made the call when they paid a courtesy call on the Head of State, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, at State House today, expressed concern about the continued detention and safety of their leader, now detained by the Nigerian government in Abuja.

The Chairlady of the organisation, Mrs Marie Tamwali, wife of Colonel Zeno, said they were concerned about Corporal Sankoh's health following the death in detention of the former

Nigerian vice president, Shehu Yar' Adua. She said they were anxious to have Corporal Sankoh released if lasting peace is to be achieved in Sierra Leone.

Mrs Tamwali informed the Head of State that they intend to embark on a peaceful demonstration this weekend, as a means of sensitising the international community on the need to release their leader. They emphasised that, without Corporal Foday Sankoh, there would be no peace in Sierra Leone, and as such, they called on the international community to hands off the Sierra Leone's crisis and leave Sierra Leoneans to solve their own problems.

Mrs Tamwali commended the Head of State for bring peace to Sierra Leone by inviting the RUF to join the AFRC government, as well as his efforts in seeking the unconditional release of their leader.

The Chairman commended them for coming together to discuss their future, noting that the release of Corporal Sankoh is paramount in the attainment of sustainable peace in Sierra Leone. Major Koroma noted that he has always made it clear in all his public statements that the release of the RUF leader is crucial to the attainment of peace in Sierra Leone, and assured them of his support and cooperation in seeking the release of their leader.

The Head of State lauded their intention to embark on development projects, adding that Sierra Leone can only be developed when the people of Sierra Leone decide to put their talents together and work for a common good.

The Chairman condemned the role of Nigeria in the current political impasse in the country, especially the unwarranted occupation of our national air and sea ports. The Head of State described the unilateral prevention of humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone as a calculated attempt to punish the poor and the innocent people of this country. [passage omitted]

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**25 December 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 25 December 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The Chairman of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] and Head of State, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma, has said in Freetown that the 25 May Revolution came to restore lasting peace and political stability in the country.

In his Christmas message to the nation, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma said the Abidjan Peace Accord and the Conakry Communique could be sustained if the nation develops an attitude of love and forgiveness for one another. The Head of State (?praised) the efforts of the army, government functionaries, women, youths, and the grassroots in the rural areas for their contributions toward the attainment of peace in Sierra Leone.

Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma said in spite of the sanctions the AFRC has succeeded in providing essential commodities for its population and also paid salary arrears and pensions.

In the area of national security, the Head of State said banditry and lawlessness have been considerably minimized by the measures put in place by the army, navy, air force, and the People's Army and police.

On education, the Head of State said the Department of Education has put in place a new school calendar, excluding the university which is facing constraints of lecturers. He called on parents to encourage their children to attend classes due to start on 5 January next year. The basic education certificate education candidates, he said, are to attend classes until they sit for their examinations.

Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma disclosed that the AFRC has decided to provide free transportation for Sierra Leoneans in neighboring countries, starting on Saturday, the 27th of this month. The Head of State called for dedication to peace and national reconciliation, love, and goodwill toward our fellow Sierra Leoneans, and a change of attitude to the conduct of the affairs of the state.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**29 December 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 29 December 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The government of the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] has, in the spirit of peace and reconciliation, decided to extend free bus services to peace loving Sierra Leoneans living in Guinea who wish to return home. The bus service, which will be available from (Bwalamwia) to Freetown, will commence tomorrow 30 December.

This move by government to extend an olive branch to all refugees and citizens interested in coming home is to enhance the consolidation of lasting peace in the country. According to a press released announced in [word indistinct], Sierra Leoneans are enjoying their finest peaceful hours, and the Chairman of the AFRC and Head of State is therefore asking all to come home to participate in the building up of the country. The release reminded everyone that there is only one Sierra Leone, and this Sierra Leone is peaceful and stable for us all to contribute to our prosperity.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**30 December 1997**

**SLBS Radio, 30 December 1997, 07:00 GMT**

The Secretary of State, Information and Broadcasting, has confirmed that the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] paid 45 million leones to (?settle) hotel bills accumulated by 25 Nigerians who were hired by the SLPP [Sierra Leone People's Party] government to kill the present Head of State in prison.

Reacting to a front-page report in the Independent Observer, Mr. (Mohammed Saje Bangura) said two attempts were allegedly made by the Nigerians, who had planned to poison Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma. He explained that these attempts were foiled by some soldiers and prison personnel.

He emphasized that the Head of State had no knowledge about the (?alleged) coup, and was invited to head the AFRC government by other ranks of the army, who believed he was the only competent man by then to salvage the already devastated economy of the country.'

**SLBS Radio, 30 December 1997, 07:00 GMT**

This New Year's Eve is expected to be devoid of gunshots. According to a release issued by the Department of Defence, all commanders of the armed forces and paramilitary arm of the [name indistinct] have been asked to put an immediate stop to indiscriminate and irresponsible firing to usher in the New Year.

Such attitude, the release notes, has imposed a drain on warlike resources and unnecessary loss of life. Government detractors could easily take advantage of the situation to penetrate and cause unrest.

According to the release, anyone caught firing during that period will face the penalty of law. The Department of Defence assured the general public that they can go about their normal activities during the period in question.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**1 January 1998**

**SLBS Radio, 7 January 1998, 07:00 GMT**

Frantic efforts are being made by officials of the Sierra Leone Professional Drivers Association, SLPDA, to secure the release of their members and vehicles intercepted last Saturday (3 January) by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group) based at Jui.

According to SLPDA President Abu Sillah, five trucks from Kono, Bo, and Kenema, conveying produce and other essential foodstuffs to Freetown, were intercepted by ECOMOG troops at their Jui checkpoint. He added that another vehicle, a national petroleum tanker lorry with 1,800 gallons of diesel for delivery to Makeni, and other trucks bound for Guinea were also intercepted.

Mr. Sillah told SLENA that on Sunday, 4 January, the passengers on board the vehicles were allowed to remove perishable items like cassava, potatoes, and oranges, but were not allowed to take away cash crops such as cocoa and coffee. The SLPDA president said some of the vehicle travelers bound to Guinea were reported to have been detained while others were said to have been airlifted to Lungi.

Mr. Abu Sillah explained that when his office was contacted about the incident, he visited the ECOMOG base at Jui to find out why the trucks had been intercepted and the drivers detained. He said he was asked to see the military intelligence officers at Kossoh Town who told him they have received orders from ECOMOG High Command to intercept the vehicles.

The ECOMOG officers, he added, told him that their action was part of the economic embargo on Sierra Leone which is presently in force. Mr. Abu Sillah wondered why it is only now that the movement of commercial vehicles within the community and the country has become a subject to an economic embargo, saying that ECOMOG officers wanted to know the owners of the produce on board the vehicles, which resulted in the detention of the drivers.

The SLPDA president said he explained his association's position to the ECOMOG officers, pointing out that if the drivers were properly informed about what to transport under the sanction and embargo he would have definitely passed on the message to their membership for compliance. In the absence of such information, Mr. Sillah is appealing to the Nigerian officers to show understanding and release the detained drivers and their vehicles. Most drivers are now in a dilemma as to what to carry in their vehicles, the SLPDA president concluded.



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**1 January 1998**

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FINANCE, JOE AMARA BANGALI MADE A STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET FOR 1998, OUTLINING GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. MR. AMARA BANGALI STRESSED THE NEED FOR STRICT FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE AND EXPENDITURE CONTROL, WHILE OUTLINING OBJECTIVES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION. THE BUDGET AIMS AT IMPROVED REVENUE COLLECTION AND STRICT EXPENDITURE CONTROL. ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY DURING THE FIRST OF 1998 WILL BE PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES, SECURITY AND THE PAYMENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR SALARIES. SINCE THE EVENTS OF MAY 25, THE COUNTRY HAS GONE THROUGH UNPRECEDENTED DIFFICULTIES, RESULTING IN THE DETERIORATION OF THE ECONOMY. THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE SUBSEQUENT IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND AIR AND SEA BLOCKADE. THESE HAVE CAUSED THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT [G.D.P.] WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO RISE BY TEN PERCENT TO DECLINE BY 27 PERCENT WHILE THE OFFICIAL RATE WHICH APPRECIATED FROM NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN LEONES TO THE U.S. DOLLAR IN DECEMBER 1996 TO EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN LEONES IN MAY LAST YEAR, AND HAS DEPRECIATED BY MORE SIXTY PERCENT IN THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS. ON THE REAL SECTOR PERFORMANCE, THE FINANCE SECRETARY SAID THAT WHICH REGARDS TO MARINE RESOURCES, SURVEILLANCE OF THE TERRITORIAL WATERS HAVE BECOME IMPOSSIBLE, LEADING TO INCREASING PIRACY. THE FISHERIES SECTOR HAS SHRUNKEN TO A LEVEL OF ARTISANAL FISHING ACTIVITY AS LICENSED FISHING VESSELS HAVE GONE TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, DUE TO THE SANCTION AND EMBARGO. REFERRING TO REVENUE PROSPECT, MR. AMARA BANGALI SAID DESPITE THE CURRENT RESOURCE LIMITATIONS, GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO EASING THE TAX BURDEN ON THE LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME EARNERS, WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING POVERTY ALLEVIATION. GOVERNMENT HE ALSO SAID, WILL EASE THE TAX BURDEN ON INVESTORS ACCORDINGLY. THE CORPORATE TAX RATE WILL BE LOWERED FROM THE PRESENT FORTY FIVE PERCENT TO THIRTY SEVEN POINT ON TRADE REMAINS THE SAME. ON THE NEW MINING POLICY, THE FINANCE SECRETARY SAID GOVERNMENT HAS LIFTED THE BAN EARLIER IMPOSED ON MINING AND MARKETING OF PRECIOUS MINERALS AND IS ENCOURAGING PARTICIPANTS IN THE MINING SECTOR TO RENEW THEIR RESPECTIVE LICENSES. MEANWHILE A SPECIAL TASKFORCE TO REMOVE ALL UNAUTHORIZED SECURITY PERSONNEL FROM THE MINING AREAS WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION. MR. AMARA BANGALI EMPHASISED THAT GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ALL REFORM PROGRAMMES EARLIER

AGREED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY. THE BUDGET INDICATED THAT GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING FIFTEEN BILLION LEONES FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES AND SALARIES, INCLUDING THREE POINT SEVEN BILLION FOR SETTLING ARREARS. A FURTHER AMOUNT IS ALLOCATED FOR RICE SUPPLEMENT TO SECURITY FORCES, DELIVERY OF BASIC GOODS AND SERVICES, WHILE THREE POINT FIVE BILLION LEONES GO TOWARDS PROVISIONS FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS, INCLUDING HEALTH AND EDUCATION. THE FINANCE SECRETARY WARNED THAT WITH THE DECLINE IN REVENUE DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND BLOCKADE OF THE AIR AND SEA PORTS, PEOPLE SHOULD BRACE THEMSELVES FOR EVEN MORE DIFFICULT PERIOD, UNLESS THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT ALTERS FOR THE BETTER.

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THE NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE, EAST, MAJOR A.Y.K. MANSARAY HAS COMMENDED CIVIL SERVANTS FOR WHAT HE CALLED THEIR DEDICATION TO DUTY AND SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY SINCE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR. MAJOR MANSARAY WHO WAS ADDRESSING HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PARASTATALS AT HIS PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE IN KENEMA ADVISED THE WORKERS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THEIR GOOD WORK. HE SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE FOR REASONS KNOWN TO THEM , LEFT THE COUNTRY AFTER THE CHANGE AND MOVED TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHERE SOME OF THEM LOST THEIR LIVES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT IS VERY MUCH CONCERN ABOUT THE MORAL IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND THAT IN THIS REGARD, IT IS WORKING ASSIDUOUSLY TO EFFECT PROMOTIONS IN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL DIVISIONS. ON SALARIES, MAJOR MANSARAY SAID THE AFRC GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY KEEN ON NOT ONLY DOUBLING THE WAGES OF WORKERS, BUT TRIPLING THEM, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE SEVERE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS FACING IT. HE INDICATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME IRREGULARITIES IN THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES, AS A RESULT OF SOME CORRUPT PRACTICES THAT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE PAYMENT SYSTEM. ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRMAN OF AFRC AND HEAD OF STATE, AND THE GOVERNMENT, MAJOR MANSARAY APOLOGISED TO THE GATHERING FOR WHATEVER ATROCITIES THAT HAVE BEEN INFLICTED ON THEM DURING THE TAKE OVER AND AFTER. HE SAID THAT SUCH ATROCITIES HAVE BEEN HIGHLY REGARDED AS SABOTAGE TO GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT IN ENHANCING LASTING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASSURED THE PEOPLE THAT THE PEACE WHICH PREVAILED DURING CHRISTMAS WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT. HE IMplored ALL TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT IN ITS PEACE PROCESS AND NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE USED BY DISGRUNTLED PEOPLE TO DERAIL THE PEACE PROCESS.

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ABOUT FIFTY RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS IN MAKENI HAVE BEEN PASSED THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL ENLISTMENT TEST TO BECOME FULL FLEDGED MEMBERS. SPEAKING TO SLENA, THE SENIOR FIELD OFFICER, SYL KOROMA DESCRIBED THE ENLISTMENT TEST AS "MANDATE", ADDING THAT A SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH A PANEL OF RED CROSSERS TO ASSESS THE CAPABILITY AND METHOD OF APPROACH TOWARDS THE PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS OF THE SOCIETY. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION OFFICER MAKENI BRANCH, MR. HENRY AMMONU [JNR], THE FIFTY VOLUNTEERS AMONG WHOM ARE TWENTY EIGHT YOUTH ARE NOW QUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL RED CROSS ACTIVITIES. MR. AMMONU HOPED THAT THE MEMBERS WILL STRENGTHEN AND HELP IMPROVE THE OPERATIONS OF THE RED CROSS IN THE REGION.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**2 January 1998**

THE AFRC GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM LUNGI INDICATING THAT NIGERIAN TROOPS ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARE POSING A NEW THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF SIERRA LEONE. ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE ISSUED TODAY BY THE AFRC SUPREME COUNCIL, A NUMBER OF YORUBA OFFICERS AND MEN STATIONED AT LUNGI WERE ROUNDED UP YESTERDAY NIGHT AND THEY ARE PRESENTLY UNDER ARREST. THE REPORTS, ACCORDING TO THE RELEASE, ALSO INDICATE THAT THESE OFFICERS WERE PLANNING A MUTING AGAINST THEIR SUPERIOR ECOMOG OFFICERS TOGETHER WITH OTHER YORUBA SOLDIERS BASED IN ABUJA TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE TOP CLASS HEAVY ARTILLERY AND WAR PLANES, WHILST WAITING ORDERS FROM THEIR SUPERIOR YORUBA COUNTER PARTS IN ABUJA. THOSE ARRESTED INCLUDED A YORUBA CAPTAIN A POPULAR FIGURE AMONGST THE OTHER RANKS IN THE NIGERIAN FORCE AT LUNGI. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THOSE ARRESTED ARE TO BE FLOWN TO ABUJA TODAY TO FACE A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL. THE AFRC SUPREME COUNCIL HAS CONDEMNED THE ACT, DESCRIBING IT AS A BLATANT AND VERY OBNOXIOUS TRIBAL GAME BEING PLAYED BY GENERAL ABACHA. THE RELEASE ALSO STATE THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NIGERIAN ARMY STATIONED AT JUI AND LUNGI ARE BITTERLY OPPOSED TO THESE ARREST AND HAVE THREATENED TO REVOLT. THE RELEASE NOTED THAT A FULL-SCALE SHOOT-OUT BETWEEN SOLDIERS SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARRESTED YORUBA SOLDIERS AND THOSE LOYAL TO NORTHERN OFFICERS LIKE VICTOR MALU MIGHT OCCUR BUT ADDED THAT THE NIGERIAN OFFICERS ARE MAKING DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THE CRISIS QUIET. THE AFRC SUPREME COUNCIL HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SUCH AN IMMINENT SHOOTOUT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE AND STRESSED THAT SIERRA LEONEANS HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH AND NEED PEACE AT THIS TIME.

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THE AFRC CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF STATE, LT. COL. JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA, HAS CALLED ON ARMY ENGINEERS TO RE-ORIENTATES THEIR MINDS INORDER TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. ADDRESSING THEM THIS MORNING AT WILBERFORCE BARRACKS, THE HEAD OF STATE URGED THEM TO BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE MORE COMPREHENSIVE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER CONSTRUCTION FIRMS AND THE SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY. THE AFRC CHAIRMAN ADVISED THEM TO BE PREPARED TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE TASK AHEAD. LT. COL. KOROMA ASSURED THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL

GIVE THEM ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT BUT THEY INTURN SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDES TO MAKE A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. THE HEAD OF STATE COMMENDED THEIR EXEMPLARY WORK IN FACE LIFTING STATE HOUSE WHICH HE SAID IS A DEMONSTRATION THAT GIVEN THE NECESSARY ENCOURAGEMENT'S AND INCENTIVES, THEY CAN PERFORM EFFICIENTLY. ON ARRIVAL, THE HEAD OF STATE WAS RECEIVED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER ARMY ENGINEER, MAJOR ALLAN BENJAMIN, WHO TOOK HIM ON A QUARTER GUARD INSPECTION BEFORE TAKING THE SALUTE. THE SHORT BUT IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY WAS GRACED BY SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS INCLUDING THE COORDINATING OFFICER 1-ABU SANKOH, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE DEFENCE COL. A.B.Y. KAMARA THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF BRIGADIER S.F.Y. KOROMA AND THE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF COL. S.O. WILLIAMS

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THE CHAIRMAN FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT DR. WILTSHIRE JOHNSON HAS SAID THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REPATRIATE THE DISPLACED TO THEIR VARIOUS TOWNS AND VILLAGES. SPEAKING AT THE DISPLACED CAMP CLAY FACTORY, DR. JOHNSON THANKED THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION FOR MAKING AVAILABLE A FIFTY FIVE SEATER BUS FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE TO BE REPATRIATED TO THE NORTHERN PROVINCE. HE SAID THE CITY COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE FUEL FOR THE BUS AND WISHED THE RETURNEES A SAFE JOURNEY. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT IT IS NOT EASY TASK TO SETTLE IN A STRANGE ENVIRONMENT AND STRESSED THAT THEY NEED TO GO BACK TO THEIR VARIOUS TOWNS TO ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. DR. JOHNSON SAID THEY HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED TWO BUSES FOR THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES BUT AS A RESULT OF THE KAMAJOR ACTIVITIES IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY, THEY CANNOT ALLOW THE DISPLACED TO RETURN. HE CALLED ON THE KAMAJORS TO DESIST FROM MAKING ROAD BLOCKADES SO THAT PEOPLE WILL HAVE FREE MOVEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WOMEN AND CHILDREN LANGUISHING IN THE STREETS AND CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES TO COME TO SIERRA LEONE AND ASSES THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DISPLACED COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND UNITY AND RECONCILIATION MR. IBRAHIM FORNA SAID THE REPATRIATION EXERCISE IS AN INDICATION OF PEACE AND CALLED ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO EMULATE THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISPLACED. HE EXTENDED GRATITUDE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF CITY COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR LISTENING TO THE DISPLACED AND PROMISED THAT THE RETURNEES WILL EMBARK ON AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. A FEMALE RETURNEE AMINATA GBLA EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENT AND PRAYED FOR LASTING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE CONCERNED WOMEN FOR NATIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT TODAY PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WORKS ENERGY AND POWER, LT. ELDRED COLLINS AT HIS KINGHARMAN ROAD RESIDENCE TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AND WISH HIM SPEEDY RECOVERY FOLLOWING HIS RECENT SURGICAL OPERATION. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION, MADAM YEALIE DUMBUYA COMMENDED THE AFRC AND THE PEOPLE'S ARMY FOR BRINGING LASTING PEACE TO THE COUNTRY AFTER THE SIX YEAR CIVIL WAR AND DESCRIBED THE APPOINTMENT OF LT. COLLINS AS A WISE DECISION. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OBSERVED THAT AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND HIS UNDER SECRETARY ARE COMMITTED TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MUCH CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE. MADAM DUMBUYA TOLD THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT THEIR ORGANISATION WAS BORNE OUT OF THE DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PEACE DEVELOPMENT AND REGISTERED THEIR UNFLINCHING SUPPORT TO THE AFRC. RESPONDING, LT. COLLINS COMMENDED THE WOMEN FOR THE INITIATIVE, AND SAID THE AFRC HAS NO ROOM FOR TRIBAL, REGIONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. HE URGED ALL PEACE LOVING SIERRA LEONEANS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN ATTAINING NATIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE RE-ECHOED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A TRUE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE IN ITS REALISATION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THEIR CHILDREN, NOTING THAT AS PARENTS AND GUARDIANS THEY ARE OBLIGED TO SEND THEM TO SCHOOL SO THAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE SOCIO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY LT. COLLINS CALLED ON THE KAMAJORS TO STOP FIGHTING IN THE SPIRIT OF NATIONAL PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT, NOTING THAT DIALOGUE IS THE ANSWER TO THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEM AND NOT FIGHTING. THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPEALED TO CUSTOMERS OF THE NATIONAL POWER AUTHORITY AND THE GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY TO ALWAYS ENDEAVOUR TO HONOUR THEIR BILLS. HE SAID IT IS ONLY BY DOING SO THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY SUCH FACILITIES TO THE REGIONS. ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF STATE LT. COL. JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA, HIS VICE CORPORAL FADAY SANKOH AND THE ENTIRE AFRC GOVERNMENT, LT. COLLINS WISHED HIS AUDIENCE A HAPPY AND A PROSPEROUS 1998.

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THE FIRST LADY MRS. MAKUTA KOROMA ON NEW YEARS DAY VISITED THE FREETOWN CHESHIRE HOME, THE HOUSE OF JESUS FOR THE HANDICAPPED AND MILTON MARGAI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND WHERE SHE DONATED CASH AND FOOD TO THE INMATES. AT THE FREETOWN CHESHIRE HOME THE FIRST LADY WAS RECEIVED BY THE MATRON MRS. MELROSE COTTAY WHO BRIEFED HER ON PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE WELFARE OF THE INMATES INCLUDING

THE COMPLETION OF THEIR NEW OFFICE BLOCK. MRS. KOROMA JOINED THEM FOR DINNER AND URGED THEM TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD NOTING THAT THOUGH IT WAS HER FIRST VISIT SHE IS PERSONALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR WELL BEING. AT THE HOUSE OF JESUS FOR THE DISABLED AN INMATE PRINCE MARKINSON PRAISED THE FIRST LADY FOR HER BOLD GESTURE IN SHARING THE NEW YEAR WITH THEM. HE HIGHLIGHTED PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE HOME HOPING THAT WITH MRS. KOROMA AROUND TO SEE THEIR PLIGHT FOR HERSELF SHE WILL CONVEY THEIR MESSAGE TO THE HEAD OF STATE LT. COL. JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA. THE FIRST LADY REMINDED THEM THAT THEY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN SOCIETY AND MUST NOT ALLOW THEIR DISABILITY TO THWART THEIR AIMS. AT THE MILTON MARGAI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND WHERE SHE ROUNDED UP HER NEW YEAR'S DAY VISIT, MRS. MAKUTA KOROMA WAS PERSONALLY GRATIFIED TO BE WITH THE PUPILS AND URGED THEM NOT TO FEEL DESPONDENT. SHE COMMENDED THE EFFORTS OF THE HEAD MASTER MR. SAM CAMPBELL AND THE AUTHORITIES FOR MAINTAINING THE SCHOOL AND PROMISED TO MAKE FREQUENT VISITS IN FUTURE. THE CHILDREN, RENDERED SEVERAL SONGS AMONGST ONE IN KRIO COMPOSED BY THE HEADMASTER.

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THE IMAM OF THE FATIMATA ZAHARA MOSQUE AT THE NEW ENGLAND, IMAM MOMODU KAMARA, HAS SAID THAT FASTING IS PRESCRIBED BY GOD, TO REFINE THE ATTITUDE, CHARACTER AND SOUL OF EVERY MUSLIM. IN HIS SERMON DURING THE FIRST JUMA PRAYER OF RAMADAN TODAY, IMAM MOMODU KAMARA SAID THAT IT IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL MUSLIMS IN GOOD HEALTH TO FAST THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. HE ADVISED WORSHIPPERS TO STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FASTING, AND APPEALED TO THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT TO HELP THE NEEDY. HE SAID THAT INSPITE OF PEOPLE'S TRIBAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, FASTING BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER. THE IMAM SAID THAT THIS YEAR'S FASTING IS A TEST OF FAITH AS THE PRICES OF SOME ESSENTIAL ITEMS HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED, BLAMING THE PROBLEMS ON SOME WICKED BUSINESS PEOPLE. AT THE CENTRAL MOSQUE, THE FIRST JUMA PRAYER WAS ATTENDED BY OVER THIRTY THOUSAND MUSLIM WORSHIPPERS. DELIVERING HIS SERMON THE CHIEF IMAM, SHEIK AHMED TEJAN SILLAH SPOKE ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE, VIRTUES AND BENEFIT OF THE MONTH OF RAMADAN NOTING THAT IT IS MOST REWARDING IN THE SIGHT OF ALLAH. HE CALLED ON WORSHIPPERS TO REFRAIN FROM LEVYING FALSE ACCUSATION AND BACK BITING, AND REPENT THEIR SINS. SHEIK HAMED TEJAN SILLAH ADVISED THE CONGREGATION TO PRAY FOR SIERRA LEONE. AND OBSERVED THAT SIERRA LEONE NEEDS PEACE, UNITY AND RECONCILIATION MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. THE IMAM PRAYED FOR ALLAH'S DIVINE INTERVENTION AND DIRECTION TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATIONS OF THE ABIDJAN AND CONAKRY PEACE ACCORDS.

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THE SLFA KNOCK OUT LEAGUE COMPETITION CONTINUES TOMORROW AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM WITH FREETOWN UNITED AGAINST REGENTS OLYMPIC WHILE OLD EDWARDIANS WILL PLAY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS EAST END LIONS ON SUNDAY. IN THE REGIONS, MIGHTY BLACKPOOL DEFEATED ARCH RIVALS EAST END LIONS ONE NIL IN A FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER AT THE WUSUM GROUNDS IN MAKENI. WUSUM STARS HAD EARLIER DEFEATED MIGHTY BLACKPOOL TWO-NIL IN THE SAME COMPETITION.

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AFTER A LULL OF SEVERAL MONTHS ACTION WILL RESUME AT THE FREETOWN GOLF COURSE THIS WEEKEND WITH A FRIENDLY COMPETITION INVOLVING AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**4 January 1998**

GOVERNMENT HAS DISMISSED FOUR PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS AND A MEMBER OF THE PEOPLES ARMY FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF STATE, THE A.F.R.C GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMY FOR THEIR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN VADALISING THE IRANIAN EMBASSY LAST WEEK. THEY ARE HASSAN BANGURA, FODAY KALLAY, BRIMA KAMARA, WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO MOHAMED KALLON AND CAPTAIN ALFRED BROWNE OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY. ANOTHER PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY LEADER MR. TAMBA GBORIE WAS ALSO DISCUSSED FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF STATE AND REDUCED TO THE RANK OF LANCE CORPORAL. LIEUTENANT COLONEL SESAY OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY LOSES THREE MONTHS SALARY AND IS TO BE SEVERELY REPRIMANDED FOR ANY FURTHER ANTI REVOLUTIONARY INCLINATION. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN IN LINE WITH ANTI LOOTING DECREE NUMBER SIX. A PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING THE DISMISSALS SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS TO WRITE A LETTER OF APOLOGY TO THE IRANIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS EXPLAINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT ALSO ORDERED THAT ALL VEHICLES LOOTED FROM THE EMBASSY SHOULD BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO THE EMBASSY. THE RELEASE CONSIDERED THE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE CONCERNED AS AN ACT OF SABOTAGE AND SAID ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE IMMEDIATELY TO SAVAGE THE LOOTED PROPERTY AND APPREHEND THE CULPRITS.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION MR. SAHR K. KAINGBANJA HAS APPEALED TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WHEN THEY REOPEN TOMORROW /TODAY. IN A BROADCAST MESSAGE TO THE NATION THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOTED THAT IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NATION AND THAT IT IS AGAINST THIS BACK GROUND THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO ENSURE THAT THE INSTITUTIONS GET BACK ON COURSE. THESE MOVES HE SAID WERE NOT ADHERED TO BY MAJORITY OF THE INSTITUTIONS. THE A.F.R.C. GOVERNMENT THE STATEMENT SAID IS PREPARED MORE THAN EVER BEFORE TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM SECURITY WITH THE HEAD OF STATE'S FATHERLY GESTURE TO PROVIDE BUSES FREE OF COST TO CONVEY THE CHILDREN TO AND FROM SCHOOL. THE SECRETARY OF STATE REFUTED FM 98.1 RUMORS THAT THE A.F.R.C. INTENDS TO KILL CHILDREN, AN ALLEGATION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS UNFORTUNATE AND DESIGNED TO TARNISH THE INTENTIONS OF THE A.F.R.C. TO BUILD A BETTER SIERRA LEONE. PARENTS, THE STATEMENT WENT ON HAVE A DUTY TO PERFORM WHICH IS TO

EDUCATE THE CHILDREN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE, A TASK WHICH SHOULD BE ADHERED TO, HE OBSERVED HOWEVER THAT THE NATION IS FACED WITH TRYING TIMES WHEN LIVING CONDITIONS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGH AND THE COST OF EDUCATION HIGHER, BUT SAID THE TWO ARE NOT AS EXPENSIVE AS IGNORANCE. IN KENEMA, PRINCIPALS AND HEAD OF SCHOOLS HAVE AGREED TO REOPEN SCHOOLS, TOMORROW. THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED OVER THE WEEKEND DURING A SPECIAL MEETING ORGANISED BY THE PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER EAST MR. DIXON ROGERS TO DISCUSS THE MODALITIES FOR THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS. ACCORDING TO SLENA THE HEADS OF SCHOOLS PRESENTED SITUATION REPORTS ON THEIR VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS DURING THE MEETING AND DISCUSSED SECURITY ISSUES AND PAYMENT OF SALARY, ARREARS. THE PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER EAST, APPEALED TO THE SUPERVISORS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS AND ENCOURAGED STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO ATTEND. HE URGED THEM TO WORKING LINE WITH THE MINISTRY TO ENSURE SOUND EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN. A JOINT GENERAL MEETING OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE POLICE GROUNDS IN KENEMA ON WEDNESDAY TO SENSITISE PARENTS AND OTHERS ABOUT THE DECISIONS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS

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THE CHAIRMAN FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT DR. WILTSHIRE JOHNSON WAS JOINED BY PUPILS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE WESTERN AREA OVER THE WEEKEND TO CLEAN UP MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS FOR THEIR RE-OPENING ON MONDAY. AT THE EASTERN MUNICIPAL SCHOOL, THE CHAIRMAN THANKED YOUTH GROUPS AND THE NATIONAL FIRE FORCE FOR ASSISTING PUPILS IN THEIR CLEANING EXERCISE. HE SAID THE CHILDREN ARE TIRED OF BEING IDLE AT HOME AND CALLED ON PARENTS TO ENDEAVOUR TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. MR. JOHNSON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE VARIOUS HEADS OF THE SCHOOLS FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY ROLE IN IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE TO THE NATION'S FUTURE LEADERS. A NURSING SISTER FATMATA TARAWALLY THANKED THE CHAIRMAN FOR HIS GESTURE AND PRAYED FOR LASTING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY, SHE SAID EVEN THOUGH SHE IS NOT IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION THE HEALTH OF THE CHILD IS A CONCERN TO HER AS A NURSE. SHE CALLED ON ALL PARENTS TO ASSIST IN THE CLEANING OF MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS FOR A CONDUCIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR CHILDREN, NOTING THAT HEALTH IS WEALTH. THE CHAIRMAN DONATED CLEANING MATERIALS TO THE VARIOUS HEADS OF THE MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS IN THE WESTERN AREA.

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THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE EAST MAJOR YEMBEH MANSARAY, HAS APPEALED TO PARAMOUNT CHIEFS OF KAILAHUN AND KENEMA DISTRICTS TO FORGIVE AND FORGET ALL WRONGS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN DONE TO THEM DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS. MAJOR MANSARAY WHO WAS ADDRESSING THE

CHIEFS AT HIS MAXWELL STREET OFFICE OBSERVED THAT APOLOGY AND FORGIVENESS RECIPROCATATE EACH OTHER, AND CALLED ON CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS TO OPEN A NEW PAGE IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ENTREATED THE CHIEFS TO ADVISE KAMAJORS TO COME OUT OF THE BUSH AND JOIN IN THE PEACE PROCESS. EARLIER CHIEF MUSTAPHA NGEBEH THE FOUR OF PEJEH BANGAY CHIEFDOM IN THE KAILAHUN DISTRICT, COMMENDED THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIS EFFORT TO BRING SANITY TO THE KENEMA TOWNSHIP. PARAMOUNT CHIEF NGEBEH REMINDED THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT PARAMOUNT CHIEFS ARE REQUIRED TO SAVE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY AND THEREFORE DECLARED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE AFRC. HE REQUESTED MAJOR MANSARAY TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING THE FIGHTING FORCES AND OTHER CIVILIANS TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.

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A TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON PARTICIPATION AND METHOGY IN PROJECT TRAINING HAS ENDED AT THE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, PORT LOKO. THE WORKSHOP, WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE CONCERNED COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH C.C.F.Y. ATTRACTED OVER TWELVE REGISTERED SOCIAL CLUBS INCL UDING THE SENGBEH YOKO THEATER,MAFORKY PROMOTERS AND SISTERS IN ACTION. ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE'S NATIONAL COORDINATOR, MR. JOSEPH BANGURA C.C.F.Y. IS A NON POLITICAL ORGANISATION AIMED AT PROMOTING THE INTEREST OF PROGRESSIVE PERSONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. HE OBSERVED THAT LOT OF SOCIAL GROUPS HAVE ENEMIES IN THE TOWN AND WARNED AGAINST PETTY JEALOUSY AND RIVALRY AMONG THEM. HE ADVISED HIS COLLEAGUES TO PLAN TOGETHER TO ENHANCE THE SMOOTH AND EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANISATION. THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN MR. HENRY BANGURA SAID THE WORKSHOP WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE GROUPS BY TEACHING THEIR MEMBERS ABOUT INFORMATION GATHERING AND PLANNING.

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ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT POOR AND NEEDY PEOPLE COMPRISING MOSTLY OF THE BLIND BEGGARS, THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND DISPLACE VICTIMS WERE ON NEW YEARS DAY TREATED TO A BOUQUET BY THE REV. E. LECTRODIA PAT CLARKSON ON BEHALF OF THE HOLY GHOST FIRE MINISTRIES. ADDRESSING THE BENEFICIARIES AT HER REGENT ROAD LUMLEY RESIDENCE ON THE LOVE OF GOD THE REV. E.P. CLARKSON STATED THAT GOD CARES FOR ALL MEN AND HAS REDEEMED US FROM POVERTY. JESUS SHE POINTED OUT, WAS MADE POOR SO THAT WE SHALL BECOME RIGH HE WAS BORN POOR LIVED POOR AND DIED POOR SHE EMPHASISED THAT THE POOR SHOULD ALSO BE TREATED LIKE HUMAN BEINGS AND APPEALED TO EVERY SIERRA LEONEANS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE POOR AND NEEDY. SHE

REQUESTED GOVERNMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES TO PROVIDE CLOTHES AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE DESTITUATES. THE BANQUET WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY DONATIONS FROM THE ARMY THE RED CROSS C.C.S.L. MECIAN AND OTHER GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS. THE HOLY GHOST FIRE MINISTRIES WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1993 BY THE REV. E.P. CLARKSON WHEN SHE STARTED HELP DISPLACED PEOPLE AT THE CENTRAL BUS STATION IN FREETOWN.

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THE THIRTY ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF THE KENT VILLAGE COMMUNITY IN THE YORK RURAL DISTRICT HAS BEEN OBSERVED AT THE ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH, KENT. SPEAKING ON THE "THEME", THE QUEST PREACHER, REV. MRS. O. THOMAS ENCOURAGED HER CONGREGATION TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD AND ACCEPT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WHICH SHE NOTED, IS GOD'S WILL. SHE URGED THE PEOPLE OF KENT TO ENTER INTO A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD INORDER TO DEVELOP THEIR COMMUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. THE FIRST LESSON WAS READ BY THE CHAIRMAN YORK RURAL DISTRICT MR. BABATUNDE PRATT AND THE GOSPEL WAS READ BY MRS. S. SMITH AND CANNON MARGIE DAVIES. IN A BRIEF STATEMENT THE CHAIRMAN OF KENT VILLAGE COMMUNITY MRS. TUNDE BECKLEY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR RECOGNISING THE GRASS ROOT PEOPLE. AS PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS, THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KENT COMMUNITY CENTRE HAS BEEN LAID, WHILE A NEW FISHING BOAT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HAS ALSO BEEN LAUNCHED. DURING THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MRS. I.A. KANU CALLED ON THE PEOPLE OF KENT TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THE FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR THEM, ADDING THAT THE AFRC GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS.

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CHURCHES IN THE CITY AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WERE TODAY/YESTERDAY FILLED BEYOND CAPACITY AS CHRISTIANS OBSERVE THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR. PRAYERS WERE OFFERED IN ALL THE CHURCHES FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY. AT THE BISHOP GRAWTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH, CLINE TOWN, THE VICAR, REV. S.A.J. PRATT STRESSED THAT WE MUST WORK SINCERELY IN THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST AND AS A WORLD, ALWAYS HELPING OTHER NATIONS. HE SAID NATIONS SHOULD NOT TRAMPLE ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHER NATIONS. THE FIRST LESSON WAS READ BY MR. HENRY WILLIAMS AND THE EPISTLE BY MR. ALBERT CREAME WRIGHT THE GOSPEL WAS READ BY MR. BISMARCK DAVIES.

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THE HAND TENNIS ASSOCIATION FOR LEAGUE TOURNAMENT HAS ENDED AT OXLEY STREET COURT WITH GEROGIE LECOCK MINNING THE MEN'S SINGLES BY THREE SETS TO TWO IN THE DOUBLES BRAINS DEFEATED MAROOFIANS BY THREE SETS TO TWO. PRESIDENT OF THE SIERRA LEONE HAND TENNIS ASSOCIATION ABU BAKAR CAREW, SAID THAT REGISTRATION IS IN PROGRESS FOR THE LEAGUE. SCHEDULED TO START IN MID JANUARY. IN TABLE TENNIS, NATIONAL PLAYER, TEKOR ARYEE IS THE CHAMPION OF A TWO-DAY MINI TOURNAMENT HELD AT THE PRISONS SPORTS ROOM, NEW ENGLAND. TEKOR SCORED TEN POINTS IN THE ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT AHEAD OF MOHAMED DUMBUYA AND ABDUL KARIM CONTEH IN SECOND AND THIRD POSITIONS. VETERAN PLAYER SHIEK BAYOR ORGANISED THE TOURNAMENT. FREETOWN UNITED AND REGENT FLIMPIC ON SATURDAY PLAYED TO A 1-1 ALL DRAW IN THE SLFA OPEN TOURNAMENT AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM. REGENT OLYMPIC NOW HAVE TWO POINTS FROM TWO NATIONS. FREETOWN UNITED HAVE ONLY ONE POINT, ALSO FROM TWO NATIONS. UP GUNNERS, DUNDEE UNITED, CANTEEN RARERS, KOSSOTOWN AND FOUR OTHERS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN A TWO-WEEK FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT THE OXLEY STREET GROUNDS BEGINNING TOMORROW/TODAY SUNDAY WITH UP GUNNERS MEETING DUNDEE UNITED IN THE OPENING MATCH.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**5 January 1998**

A RELEASE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE SOUTH MAJOR A.F. KAMARA HAS CONDEMNED SUNDAYS B.B.C. FOCUS ON AFRICA REPORT ON RENEWED FIGHTING BETWEEN KAMAJORS AND GOVERNMENT FORCES IN BO, WHICH THE CORRESPONDENT STATED WAS INTENSIFIED IN THE EXCHANGE OF HEAVY ARTILLERIES IN THE CENTRE OF BO TOWN. THE RELEASE DESCRIBED THE REPORT AS NOT ONLY UNFOUNDED AND MISLEADING BUT ONE THAT WAS GEARED TO CREATE UNNECESSARY PANIC AND UNDERMINE THE EFFORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE EDUCATION TO PRESENT SCHOOLING IN THE COUNTRY. THE SECRETARY OF STATE EXPRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO BRIDGE THE GAP OF MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS AND KAMAJORS OPERATING IN THE AREA. MAJOR A.F. KAMARA REASSURED THE PEOPLE OF BO THAT THE A.F.R.C. GOVERNMENT IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO THE CONAKRY PEACE AGREEMENT AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO A CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. ALSO BO, FIFTEEN PEOPLE ARRESTED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL FOR ALLEGEDLY CAUSING MALICIOUS DAMAGES TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE SOUTH HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON THE ORDERS OF MAJOR A.F. KAMARA.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE EDUCATION MR. S.K. KAIBANJA TODAY/YESTERDAY PAID ASSESSMENT VISITS TO SERVILE SCHOOLS IN THE WESTERN AREA. MR. KAIBANJA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE LARGE TURN OUT AND OF TEACHERS AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO CONTINUE, STRESSING THAT AS PARENTS AND TEACHERS THEY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE FIAPID DECLINE OF THE COUNTRY'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM NOTING THAT IN THE PAST SIERRA LEONE WAS THE ATHENS OF WEST AFRICA AND TEACHERS WERE IN AN ENVIABLE POSITION OF RESPECT AS THEY EPITOMISED QUALITY AND INTEGRITY. HE DESCRIBED EDUCATION AS A POSITIVE FREE FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RE-ECHOED THE A.F.R.C.'S COMMITMENT TO REVIVE THE COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BY IMPROVING THE LOT OF TEACHERS, THE SCHOOL STRUCTURES AND PROVIDING TEACHING LEARNING MATERIALS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ADVISED PARENTS NOT TO GAMBLE THE FUTURE OF THEIR CHILDREN BY SENDING THEM TO TRADE ON THE STREETS ABANDONING EDUCATION. KAIBANJA CALLED ON ALL PEACE LOVING SIERRA LEONEANS TO AVOID BLENDING EDUCATION WITH POLITICS AND SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. THE VICE PRINCIPAL OF AHMADIYYA SECONDARY SCHOOL AT KISSY

DOCK YARD, MR. KABIRU MANSARAY ASSURED THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THEIR COOPERATION IF THEY WERE PAID PART OF THEIR SALARY ARREARS AND THE CHILDREN TURN UP AT SCHOOL. SIMILAR SENTIMENTS WERE EXPRESSED BY STAFFS OF THE INDEPENDENCE MEMORIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AND THE ST. HELENA SECONDARY SCHOOL. REPORTS REACHING S.L.B.S. INDICATE THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF TEACHERS AND PUPILS RETURNED TO SCHOOL TODAY/TOMORROW IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR SCHOOLS TO RE-OPEN. IN SOME SCHOOLS SUCH AS SAINT EDWARDS PRIMARY DR. S.M. BRODERCK AND FATTAH RAHMAN MUNICIPAL, STAFF ATTENDANCE WAS ABOUT NINETY EIGHT PERCENT, WITH ONE OF THEM HAVING FOURTEEN OUT OF FIFTEEN TEACHERS READY FOR WORK. ACCORDING TO SOME HEADTEACHERS THEY COULD THINK OF NO REASON FOR THE LOW TURN OUT OF PUPILS. ONE POINTED OUT THAT ON THE TWO OCCASIONS SHE CONVENED A.P.T.A. PARENTS FAILED TO TURN UP. ANOTHER EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THIS ATTITUDE SAYING IS WILL LEAD TO A DECLINE IN EDUCATION WHICH IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS. REGULAR TEACHING HAS HOWEVER COMMENCED IN SOME SCHOOLS INCLUDING THE SAINT EDWARDS PRIMARY WHERE A REASONABLE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDED SCHOOL TODAY/TOMORROW THE HEAD TEACHER MR. AUGUSTINE KAMARA KARGBO ENCOURAGED THEM TO PERSUADE THEIR FRIENDS TO ATTEND SCHOOL AND DISTRIBUTED FREE EXERCISE BOOKS AND PENCILS TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE EDUCATION HAS PRAISED THE DAMSON BRIDGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THEIR POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO NATION BUILDING. MR SAHR KAIGBANJA HOWEVER OBSERVED THAT THE DAMSON BRIDGE COMMUNITY NEEDS SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT ITS PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO WAS ADDRESSING A MEETING WITH THE GROUP WARNED YOUTHS TO REFRAIN FROM LAZINESS AND WORK DILIGENTLY WITH THE A.F..R.C TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED. HE CALLED ON THE COMMUNITY TO ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO RESUME SCHOOLING WHEN THEY REOPEN. THE WOMEN'S CO-ORDINATOR MADAM MAYILLA YANSANEH THANKED THE ORGANISATION FOR RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF THE A.F.R.C. AND SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. MADAM KADI SAWYERR, THE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY AND POOR SANITATION WILL BE LOOKED INTO. SHE CALLED ON ALL WOMEN TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS IN REBUILDING THE NATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. THE CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE MR. JALLOH JAMBORIA ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND INFORMED THEM ABOUT THE CITY COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO KEEP THE MUNICIPALITY CLEAN. THE DIRECTOR, MEDICAL SERVICES, DR. BUNDU KAMARA ADVISED THE YOUTHS TO PROMOTE

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION IN THE COMMUNITY TO AVOID THE SPREAD OF DISEASES. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT DR. WILTSHIRE JOHNSON HAS FORMALLY LAUNCHED THE FUND RAISING PROGRAMME OF THE MANDELA YOUTH ORGANISATION ROSS ROAD. DR. JOHNSON EMPHASISED THAT AS CITY FATHER HIS PRIORITY IS TO IMPROVE ON THE LIVING STANDARD, OF THE LESS FORTUNATE AND ASSURED THEM THAT HE WILL CHANNEL THEIR PROBLEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY FOR PROMPT ACTION. HE COMMENDED THE MANDELA YOUTHS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND CALLED IN THE PEOPLE TO BE SELF DISCIPLINED. IN HER REMARKS, THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CIVIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTER, MRS. BABSY COKER-GIBBS TOLD YOUTHS THAT HER ORGANISATION'S OBJECTIVE IS TO EDUCATE AND TRAIN PEOPLE IN VARIOUS SKILLS AND ASSURED THEM OF HER SUPPORT IN ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CEREMONY, MR. LAMIN JOAQUE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE NEGLIGENCE OF YOUTHS IN THIS COUNTRY AND HIGHLIGHTED SOME OF THEIR PROBLEMS INDULGING LACK OF TOOLS AND THE IRREGULAR COLLECTION OF GARAGE BY THE HEALTH SANITATION DEPARTMENT.

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THE SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH EMPHASISED THAT THE MESSAGE OF THE AFRC IS PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE AND LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY. SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE UNITED NATIONAL ACTION GROUP IN KABALA TOWN IN KOINADUGU DISTRICT, MR. AROUN SANKOH SAID IT IS NOW TIME TO FORGET THE PAST AND WORK FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE. THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY LEADER ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED FOR PEOPLE AND YOUTHS IN PARTICULAR TO REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. IN HIS CONTRIBUTION, THE AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, ALHAJI AMADU JALLOH, APPEALED FOR THE PROVISION OF BASIS ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS TELEPHONE SERVICE, GOOD ROADS AND MORE SCHOOL. HE ADVISED THE AFRC TO RETRAIN FROM MAKING UNFULFILLED PROMISES AND ENCOURAGED YOUTHS TO ACCEPT COMPETITION, AND FACE THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE. THE DISTRICT OFFICER KOINDUGU MR. S.S. LANSANA, WHO CHAIRED THE PROGRAMME WELCOMED THE IDEA OF FORMING THE GROUP AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL WORK WITH EXISTING FROUPS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KABALA BRANCH, MR. OLIVE MANSARAY SPOKE ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE ACTION GROUP, STRESSING THAT ITS MAIN AIM IS TO DEVELOP THE KOINDUGU DISTRICT. IN HIS REMARKS, THE PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF WARA WARA YAGALA CHIEFDOM P.C. ALIMAMY YEMBEH THE SECOND SAID THAT THEIR ROLE AS TRADITIONAL RULERS IS TO SUPPORT ANY GOVERNMENT IN POWER. THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONAL ACTION GROUP,MR. SHEKA MANSARAY APPEALED FOR UNITY AND CO-OPERATION AMONG YOUTH GROUPS FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT. ITEMS ESTIMATED AT THOUSANDS OF LEONES INCLUDING WHEEL BARROWS, HEADPANS SHOVELS,



PICK AXE AND FOOTBALL WERE ALSO DONATED TO THE UNITED NATIONAL ACTION GROUP KABALA BRANCH BY THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FINANCE, MR. I.M.S. SESAY. THE PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF DIANG CHIEFDOM, P.C. SHEKU MAGBA THE THIRD PRAYED FOR UNITY EMPHASIZING THAT THEIR ROLE AS TRADITIONAL RULERS IS TO SERVE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY. THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE HEALTH AND SANITATION MR. JOHN TOMMY HAS SAID IN FREETOWN THAT HE WILL FOCUS ON SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, PROPER DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND THE PROVISION OF SAFE DRINKING WATER. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE S.L.B.S. MR. TOMMY PROMISED TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF DEPRIVED AND DEPRESSED COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY BY GOVERNMENT TO DO SO. HE SAID AS A SANITARIAN, HE WILL UTILISE HIS BACKGROUND TO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH WHICH HE SAID IS MORE RELIABLE AND CHEAPER THAN CURATIVE HEALTH. ON GARAGE DISPOSAL, MR. TOMMY SAID EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HIS DEPARTMENT TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY. THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE SAID TRAINING FACILITIES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL SHOULD ENCOURAGED AS SUCH PROGRAMMES COULD HELP TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SANITATION AND CREATE AN ENABLING CAPACITY WHICH WILL DECREASE THE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT.

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FINANCE MR. I.M. S. SESAY HAS ADVISED THE PEOPLE OF KOINADUGU DISTRICT TO PLACE PREMIUM ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. ADDRESSING A MEETING OF THE KOINADUGU DESCENDENT UNION (KDU) AT THE YOGOMAIA COURT BARRI IN KABALA RECENTLY, MR. SESAY ASSURED THEM THAT GOVERNMENT WILL FACILITATE COLLECTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND RURAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION. HE PROMISED THAT TOOLS WILL SOON BE PROVIDED FOR THE KABALA COMMITTEE AND DONATED FIFTY THOUSAND LEONES TO THE UNION FOR ITS PROJECTS. THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE KOINADUGU DESCENDANT UNION MR. SANUSSI JAKITAY SPOKE ABOUT THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION AND APPEALED TO ALL TO WORK TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF TRIBE. "WE SHOULD NOT SIT BY AND SEE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE GOING TO THE DRAINS" HE ADDED. HE OBSERVED THAT THE YOGOMAIA TOWN FIELD HAS BEEN NEGLECTED FOR TOO LONG, NOTING THAT IT COULD BE A SOURCE OF REVENUE TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN IF IT IS FENCED. THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE OCCASION, MR. M.S. MARRAHSPOKE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE AND APPEALED FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY, WATER SUPPLY, MEDICAL AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES, TOOLS AND FOOD FOR WORK. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARTISANAL AND BOATOWNERS ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MOHAMED BANGURA, HAS SAID THAT HIS IMMEDIATE PLAN FOR THIS YEAR IS TO ORGANISE ALL

BOATOWNERS TO WORK AS A TEAM TO DEVELOP THE BOAT INDUSTRY NATION WIDE. SPEAKING TO OUR REPORTER MR. BANGURA SAID THE ASSOCIATION WAS ABLE TO FORM AN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION THAT IS WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE CARE TAKEN BY BOATOWNERS LAST YEAR TO REDUCE LOSS OF LIVES AT SEA. MR. BANGURA CALLED ON GOVERNMENT AND THE SIERRA LEONE PORTS AUTHORITY TO HELP PROVIDE COMMUNICATION SETS, DEMARCATION BUOYS, LIFE BELTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO ELIMINATE ACCIDENTS AT SEA. HE CALLED ON THE WORKER OF THE ASSOCIATION TO KEEP FANNING THE PLANES OF NATIONALISM AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO WORK HARD TO DEVELOPMENT THE UMBRELLA ORGANISATION.

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THE PORT LOKO BRANCH OF THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY HAS ORGANISED A FORTY KILOMETER BICYCLE RACE TO MARK NEW YEAR'S DAY. THE RACE FROM KABATHAN VILLAGE TO THE RED CROSS OFFICE AT LUN SAR ROAD WAS WON BY MOHAMED BANGURA AND ATTRACTED OVER TWELVE CYCLISTS. DISTRIBUTING THE PRIZES, THE RED CROSS BRANCH CHAIRMAN MR. CHERNOR SAID KAMARA THANKED THE PARTICIPANTS AND EXPLAINED THAT THE RED CROSS PRINCIPLES INCLUDE NEUTRALITY, HUMANITY AND IMPARTIALITY. MR. KAMARA CATALOGUED THE PROJECT UNDERTAKING BY THE SOCIETY IN THE DISTRICT ESPECIALLY THE CLEANING OF PUBLIC PLACES ADDING THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY IS OPEN TO ALL. THE BRANCH CHAIRMAN SAID THE RED CROSS SOCIETY NOW OPERATES A FIRST AID CLINIC FREE OF CHARGE AT THE BRANCH OFFICE. THE FIELD OFFICER MR. MUSTAPHA MANSARAY EXPLAINED THAT THE RACE WAS NOT ORGANISED FOR FUND RAISING BUT TO CREATE PUBLIC WARINESS OF THE SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES. MR. U.P. KAMARA WHO REPRESENTED THE CHIEF POLICE OFFICER, PRAISED THE SPORTSMANSHIP DISPLAYED BY THE CYCLIST AND OBSERVED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL NOT ONLY CREATE AWARENESS OF RED CROSS IN THE COMMUNITY BUT WILL SOLIDIFY HUMAN RELATIONSHIP.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**6 January 1998**

THE SECRETARY OF STATE EAST HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF RICE FROM FORTY- FIVE TO THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND LEONES PER BAG, AND A CUP FROM THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY TO TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-LEONES.

ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE AND STAFF OF THE KENEMA TOWN COUNCIL, MAJOR A.Y.K. MANSARAY SAID ONE OF THE PROBLEMS HAS BEEN INFORMATION FROM FREETOWN NOT REACHING PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCES.

HE PRAISED THE PEOPLE OF KENEMA FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND APPEAL TO THEM TO FORGET ABOUT THE PAST AND WORK TOWARDS COMPROMISE AND RECONCILIATION SO THAT PEACE WOULD PREVAIL IN THE COUNTRY.

MAJOR MANSARAY ASSURED THE PEOPLE OF KENEMA OF A SAFE AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE AT ALL TIMES.

THE RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN KENEMA TOWN COUNCIL MR. B.S. MASSAQUOI SAID THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWNSHIP ENJOYED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN A PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE SINCE THE OUT BREAK OF THE SEVEN UEAR OLD WAR WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENCE OF THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE EAST.

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FRANTIC EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY OFFICIALS IF THE SIERRA LEONE PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS ASSOCIATION [SLPDA] TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THEIR MEMBERS AND VEHICLES INTERCEPTED LAST SATURDAY BY THE NIGERIAN LED ECOMOG TROOPS BASED AT JUI.

ACCORDING TO SLPDA PRESIDENT, ABU SILLAH FIVE TRUCKS FROM KONO, BO, KENEMA CONVEYING PRODUCE AND OTHER ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFF TO FREETOWN, WHERE INTERCEPTED BY ECOMOG TROOPS AT THEIR JUI CHECK POINT.

HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER VEHICLE A NATIONAL PETROLEUM TANKER LORRY WITH ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED GALLONS OF DIESEL FOR DELIVERY TO MAKENI AND OTHER TRUCKS BOUND FOR GUINEA, WERE ALSO INTERCEPTED.

MR SILLAH TOLD SLENA THAT ON SUNDAY JANUARY 4, THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD THE VEHICLES WERE ALLOWED TO REMOVE PERISHABLE ITEMS LIKE CASSAVA, POTATOES, AND ORANGES, BUT WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE AWAY CASH CROP SUCH AS COCOA AND COFFEE.

THE SLPDA PRESIDENT SAID SOME OF THE VEHICLES DRIVERS BOARD FOR GUINEA WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED, WHILE OTHERS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN AIR LIFTED TO LUNGI.

MR. ABU SILLAH EXPLAINED THAT WHEN HIS OFFICE WAS CONTACTED ABOUT THE INCIDENT HE VISITED THE ECOMOG BASE AT JUI TO FIND OUT WHY THE TRUCKS HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED AND THE DRIVERS DETAINED.

HE SAID HE WAS ASKED TO SEE THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AT KOSSOH TOWN WHO TOLD HIM THEY HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM ECOMOG HIGH COMMAND TO INTERCEPT THE VEHICLES.

THE ECOMOG OFFICERS, HE ADDED TOLD HIM THAT THEIR ACTION WAS PART OF THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO ON SIERRA LEONE WHICH IS PRESENTLY IN FORCE.

MR ABU SILLAH WONDERED WHY IT IS ONLY NOW THAT THE MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WITHIN THE COUNTRY HAS BECOME A SUBJECT OF AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO, SAYING THAT THE ECOMOG OFFICERS WANTED TO KNOW THE OWNERS OF THE PRODUCE ON BOARD THE VEHICLES WHICH RESULTED IN DETENTION OF DRIVERS.

POSITION TO THE ECOMOG OFFICERS, POINTING OUT THAT IF THE DRIVERS WERE PROPERLY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT TO TRANSPORT UNDER SANCTION AND EMBARGO, HE WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY PASSED ON THE MESSAGE TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR COMPLIANCE IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH INFORMATION MR. SILLAH IS APPEALING TO NIGERIAN OFFICER TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING AND RELEASE THE DETAINED DRIVERS AND THEIR VEHICLES.

"MOST DRIVERS ARE NOW IN A DILEMMA AS TO WHAT TO CARRY IN THEIR VEHICLES", THE SLPDA PRESIDENT CONCLUDED.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WORKS, ENERGY AND POWER, LT. ELDRED COLLINS HAS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IS TO UNDERTAKE THE REFURBISHING OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS STARTING WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW ENGLAND OFFICES.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO BID FAREWELL TO THE OUT-GOING SENIOR PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR. MANSO SAMURA AND WELCOME THE INCOMING ONE MR. DANIEL COOMBER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE EXPRESSED DISMAY AT THE DILAPIDATED CONDITIONS OF MOST GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS EYE SORE TO THE PUBLIC.

LT. COLLINS NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT IN THE PAST, THE REFURBISHING OF MOST GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS WERE CONTRACTED TO LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WHO FAILED TO COMPLETE THE JOBS OR DID THEM BADLY ONLY TO ENRICH THEMSELVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NATION.

HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOOD WORK DONE BY THE OUT GOING SENIOR PERMANENT SECRETARY AND HOPED THAT WITH THIS WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE HE WOULD HELP PROMOTE EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY WHICH HE SAID HAS DECLINED OVER THE YEAR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE CALLED ON PARENTS AND GUARDIANS NOT TO ALLOW ENEMIES OF DEVELOPMENT TO EASILY FOOL THEM BUT SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOLS, NOTING THAT EDUCATION IS THE PRINCIPLE FACTOR FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, WORKS, ENERGY AND POWER, MR. HASSAN BARRIE OBSERVED THAT WITH COMMITMENT, SINCERITY OF PURPOSE AND PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S RESOURCES, SIERRA LEONE WILL REALISE DEVELOPMENT.

THE IN-COMING SENIOR PERMANENT SECRETARY, WORKS DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT IN ENSURING THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS PROMOTED TO HIGHER HEIGHT.

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A ONE WEEK WORKSHOP ON "COMMUNITY BASED IVERMECTIN DISTRIBUTION", HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN FIVE MAJOR TOWNS ALONG THE RIVER ROKEL BASIN.

THE WORKSHOP WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY THE LUNSAR EYE HOSPITAL IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ONCHOCERCIASIS [ONCHO] CONTROL PROGRAMME WAS HELD AT MAMUSA FARADUGU, MASIKA AND LUNSAR.

ACCORDING TO THE ONCHO CONTROL PROGRAMME MEDICAL OFFICER DR. I.F. JALLOH, THE AIM OF THE WORKSHOP WAS TO TRAIN VILLAGERS TO BE ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE TABLETS CORRECTLY AT VILLAGE LEVEL.

HE SAID THE PROGRAMME IS GEARED TOWARDS HELPING THOSE UNDER THE THREAT OF LOSING THEIR EYE SIGHT FROM BLACK FLIES.

MR. JALLOH STRESSED THE NEED FOR INTEGRATING ONCHO CONTROL AND IVERMECTIN DISTRIBUTION INTO THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

THE LUN SAR EYE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR MR. B.A. MAC-KOTIE OUTLINED THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ONCHO TREATMENT WHICH, HE SAID, WAS DONATED ON FREE OF COST BASIS.

HE SAID THE DISEASE IS CAUSED BY A BLACK FLY AND CAN AFFECTED PEOPLE OF ALL CATEGORIES ALONG THE RIVER BASIN.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE FORMER SPRAY SYSTEM WAS HALTED BECAUSE OF THE WAR, ADDING THAT IVERMECTIN IS A PREVENTIVE TABLET.

P.C. BAI KOMPA BOMBOLI OF KOYA CHIEFDOM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE ORGANISERS FOR EXTENDING SUCH A FACILITY TO HIS CHIEFDOM.

HE SAID KOYA SURROUNDED BY THE BLACK FLY BASIN RIVER AND THAT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF HIS PEOPLE WERE ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING BLIND, CHIEF BOMBOLI CAUTIONED THE DISTRIBUTORS TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL IN CARRYING OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS STRESSING THAT AN OVERDOSE CAN BE DETRIMENTAL.

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SAMUEL KAMARA OF 136 KISSY ROAD IN FREETOWN WAS ON FRIDAY EVENING ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING ONE AMPLIFIER COSTING SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND LEONES FROM THE BUXTON MEMORIAL CHURCH ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

EYE WITNESS REPORT SAY MR. KAMARA WHO STAYED AT THE CHURCH COMPOUND AFTER A FUNERAL SERVICE WENT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR INTO THE VESTRY AND REMOVED THE AMPLIFIER AND WENT AWAY WITH IT.

HE WAS ABOUT TO SELL THE AMPLIFIER FOR A HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND LEONES WHEN HE WAS INTERCEPTED BY A GENTLEMAN WHO HAD GOT WIND OF THE BUXTON CHURCH INCIDENT.

CHURCH OFFICIALS WERE ALERTED AND LATER IDENTIFIED THE AMPLIFIER.

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THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE WATERLOO RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLOR ALLIEU MANSARAY HAS CALLED ON WORKERS OF THE COUNCIL TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS IN THE COLLECTION OF MARKET DUES.

HE WAS ADDRESSING TRIBAL HEADMEN, MARKET WOMEN AND OTHER VILLAGES AUTHORITIES AT THE MARKET SQUARE WATERLOO OVER THE WEEKEND.

THE COUNCILLOR OBSERVED THAT FOR THE PAST YEARS, THE REVENUE COLLECTION AT WATERLOO HAS NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING AS A RESULT OF MALPRACTISES BY COLLECTORS.

MR. MANSARAY SAID UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION, PLANS FOR IMPROVED REVENUE COLLECTION ARE BEING WORKED OUT BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

HE WARNED CHIEFS AT WATERLOO TO DESIST FROM SETTING UP COURTS, THAT ARE NOT AUTHORISED BY LAW ESPECIALLY THOSE DEALING WITH THE COLLECTION OF MARKET DUES.

CHIEF ALIE FORNAH CONGRATULATED THE ACTING CHAIRMAN AND ON HIS ELECTION AND APPEALED TO COUNCIL WORKERS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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THE WOMEN'S NETWORK OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN SIERRA LEONE YESTERDAY HAS DISTRIBUTED ITEMS DONATED TO THEM BY THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY TO DISPLACED FEMALE ADULTS, CHILDREN AND BABIES IN THE WESTERN AREA.

DURING THE CEREMONY AT THE LOWER HALL OF WESLEY CHURCH, THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S NETWORK PROMISED, THEY WILL DO ALL THEIR POWER TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF SIERRA LEONEAN WOMEN.

MRS. BEATRICE ANDERSON SUGGESTED, WORKSHOPS, FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AS SOME OF THE WAYS OF DOING SO.

SHE SAID IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR HER ORGANISATION TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED SISTERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH AND THANKED THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS FOR THEIR TIMELY DONATION.

MRS. ANDERSON SAID THAT OVER ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY NEEDY FAMILIES FROM ALLEN TOWN, HASTINGS, KOSSOH TOWN, BAIMER MEMORIAL, CENTRAL CIRCUITS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH AND OTHERS BENEFITED FROM THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY'S GESTURE.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY, MISS OMOTAYO COLE WHO WITNESSED THE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE RED CROSS WAS ANLE TO SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S NETWORK BY ENABLING THEM TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY.

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THE SLFA SECRETARIAT HAS POSTPONED THE MIGHTY BLACKPOOL SENEGAL LEAGUE MARCH SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE POSTPONEMENT.

REPORTS HOWEVER STATE THAT FIXTURES FOR WEEKEND MATCHES REMAIN THE SAME. BOTH TEAMS HAVE PLAYED ONE MATCH EACH IN THE GROUP OF THE CURRENT OPEN TOURNAMENT.

DUNDEE UNITED AND HOST, UP-GUNNERS ON MONDAY PLAYED TO A GOALLESS DRAW IN THE FIRST LEAGUE OF THEIR HOME AND AWAY MATCH AT THE OXLEY STREET GROUNDS FOURAH BAY.

DAN STREET ROVERS MEET ATAYA BASS ON WEDNESDAY, THE TOURNAMENT IS ORGANISED BY THE SPORTS PROMOTERS OF FOURAH BAY.



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**8 January 1998**

THE AFRC GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT IT VIEWS AS CONSTANT HARASSMENT, IMPOUNDING OF VEHICLES AND DETAINING OF PEACEFUL CITIZENS BY NIGERIANS AT JUI, KOSSOH TOWN.

A RELEASE FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TOURISM AND CULTURE, DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY ECOWAS TO WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE A COMPLETE AFFRONT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1132.

THE RELEASE CALLS ON THE NIGERIANS TO STOP THIS ACT IMMEDIATELY AS IT GOES AGAINST THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN AND REMINDS THE NIGERIANS THAT SIERRA LEONE IS A SOVEREIGN STATE AND HER TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY SHOULD BE RESPECTED.

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THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, TOURISM AND CULTURE, MR. MOHAMED SAIO BANGURA HAS URGED JOURNALISTS TO BE PATRIOTIC AND REFRAIN FROM PUBLISHING STORIES THAT WOULD COMPROMISE THE SECURITY OF THE STATE.

THE MINISTER WHO WAS MEETING EDITORS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT, TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT AS SIERRA LEONEANS, THE STATE MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE IN THEIR REPORTING.

MR. SAIO BANGURA REMINDED JOURNALISTS THAT SIERRA LEONE IS A COUNTRY AT WAR DUE TO THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE KAMAJORS DUBBED OPERATION BLACK DECEMBER. MR BANGURA IMplored THEM TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIVITY THAT WOULD AGGRAVATE AN ALREADY SERIOUS SITUATION.

HE URGED PRESS OPERATIVES TO CROSS CHECK THEIR STORIES BEFORE GOING TO PRESS TO ENSURE ACCURACY AND AVOID UNNECESSARY EMBARRASSMENT TO INDIVIDUALS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THE RIGHT OF JOURNALISTS TO BELONG TO REGIONAL, POLITICAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS BUT WARNED AGAINST ALLOWING THEIR MEMBERSHIP TO INFLUENCE THEIR REPORTING OF EVENTS INVOLVING SUCH INSTITUTIONS.

HE ASSURED THE PRESS OF HIS COOPERATION IN ENSURING A FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE THE ETHICS OF JOURNALISM AND THE JOURNALISTIC CODE OF CONDUCT ARE RESPECTED BY ALL PRACTITIONERS.

MR. SAIO BANGURA APPEALED TO EDITORS AND NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS TO REGISTER THEIR PAPERS AND LEGALISE THEIR EXISTENCE.

RESPONDING, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS, SLAJ, MR. FRANK KPOSOWA MAINTAINED THAT THE FORCES IN PLACE AT ANY GIVEN TIME DETERMINE THE BEHAVIOUR OF JOURNALISTS.

HE RECALLED THAT SINCE MAY 25TH, A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE TO WHICH SLAJ RESPONDED APPROPRIATELY. MR. KPOSOWA ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT MEDIA PRACTITIONERS SHARE HIS CONCERNS AND EXPRESSED THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY IS NOT CHAOTIC.

HE CALLED FOR DIALOGUE IN RESOLVING SOME OF THE BURNING ISSUES RAISED BY THE MINISTER.

THE MEETING WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, MR. S.D. KAMARA, WAS CHAIRED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MR. P.A. NGAIMA.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE, EDUCATION, MR. S.K. KAIGBANJA HAS REMINDED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS IN ENSURING THAT THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BETTER AND QUALITY EDUCATION TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

SPEAKING AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE DURING A ONE-DAY SENSITIZATION MEETING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE ADVISED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS NOT TO ALLOW ENEMIES OF DEVELOPMENT TO INFLUENCE THEM TO DEPRIVE THE CHILDREN FROM THEIR RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

MR. KAIGBANJA DESCRIBED EDUCATION AS THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND URGED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOLS SO THAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

HE COMMENDED THE TEACHERS FOR THEIR LARGE TURNOUT AT SCHOOLS SINCE THEY RE-OPENED ON MONDAY WHICH HE SAID IS AN INDICATION OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE MOTTO OF THE SIERRA LEONE TEACHERS UNION, S.L.T.U., WHICH IS "SERVICE TO THE NATION" AND ASSURED THEM THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON PAY THEM PART OF THEIR BACKLOG SALARIES.

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CONTINUING HIS FAMILIARISATION TOUR OF VARIOUS FISHING COMPANIES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES TODAY PAID A ONE DAY VISIT TO OKEYK AND BANGSO FISHING COMPANIES.

AT THE OKEYK FISHING COMPANY, BANANA WATER, THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER MR. JONAS COLEMA TOLD THE SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF FREQUENT HARASSMENT AT THE BANANA WATER OFFICE AND PIRACY BY ARMED GANGS ON THE HIGH SEAS. THIS HE SAID STARTED IN 1996. MR COLEMA TOLD THE SOS THAT ALL ATTEMPTS BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS TO STOP PIRACY, HAD PROVED FUTILE.

HE INFORMED THE SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT PLANS TO SEND REFRIGERATED CONTAINERS OF FISH TO THE REGIONS SO THAT PEOPLE IN THOSE AREAS WILL RECEIVE FRESH FISH. MR COLEMA PROMISED TO FLOOD THE MARKET SOON.

IN HIS REMARKS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MAJOR PAUL THOMAS TOLD THEM TO REPORT ANY INCIDENT OF PIRACY AND HARASSMENT FROM ANY QUARTERS TO HIS MINISTRY AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT ANY TIME. HE APPEALED TO THEM TO PAY THEIR LICENSE FEES.

MAJOR PAUL THOMAS APPEALED TO THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE FISH FOR THE POPULATION ADDING THAT THE AFRC GOVERNMENT IS READY TO BUILD THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE HELP. HE COMMENDED THE OKEYK FISHING COMPANY FOR NOT LAYING OFF THEIR WORKERS AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME AND CALLED ON OTHER COMPANIES TO EMULATE OKEYK'S EXAMPLE.

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, THE MINISTER AND ENTOURAGE ALSO VISITED THE BANGSO FISHING COMPANY ALONG WATER STREET WHERE THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, MR AMARA BANGURA AND STAFF WHO BRIEFED THE SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT THEIR OPERATIONS.

IN HIS REMARKS THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAJOR PAUL THOMAS APPEALED TO THEM TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FISH WHICH IS THE CHEAPEST FORM OF PROTEIN FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION.

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IN BO, A COMMITTEE COMPRISING TRADERS UNIONS, TRADE INSPECTORS AND THE DRIVERS UNION HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE AFRC SECRETARIAT TO CONTROL PRICES OF RICE, FUEL AND OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

THE NEW PRICES AGREED ON INCLUDE PALM OIL TO BE SOLD AT EIGHT HUNDRED LEONES PER PINT, GROUNDNUT THREE HUNDRED LEONES PER CUP AND KEROSENE THREE HUNDRED LEONES INSTEAD OF ONE THOUSAND LEONES PER PINT.

ALSO THE COST OF PETROL PER GALLON IS TO BE REDUCED FROM TWENTY THOUSAND TO TEN THOUSAND AND THAT OF RICE FROM FORTY FIVE THOUSAND TO THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND LEONES PER BAG.

ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THE OFFICER COMMANDING AFRC SECRETARIAT CAPTAIN A.B. KAMARA EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE RAPID RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN BO AND ITS ENVIRONS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A DELIBERATE EXPLOITATION OF THE COMMON MAN.

HE WARNED AGAINST HOARDING ADDING THAT STRINGENT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST DEFAULTERS.

ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE, TRADERS HAVE BLAMED DRIVERS FOR CHARGING EXORBITANT FARES WHILE DRIVERS IN TURN BLAMED DEALERS FOR THE UNNECESSARY RISE IN THE PRICE OF PETROL.

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THE MANAGER OF THE CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL, DR. HAROUN RASHID TURAY, HAS APPEALED TO PEOPLE TO DEDICATE A SPECIAL DAY IN EVERY MONTH AS MALARIA PREVENTION DAY.

HE MADE THIS APPEAL DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH SLBS NEWS. ACCORDING TO DR. TURAY, PEOPLE LIVING IN ENDEMIC AREAS ARE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK AND SINCE MALARIA IS DIFFICULT TO PREVENT, EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND PROMPT TREATMENT ARE REQUIRED.

THE CDC MANAGER DESCRIBED THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED MALARIA PREVENTION SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN AS SUCCESSFUL TO SOME EXTENT SINCE PEOPLE CAN NOW CORRECTLY EXPLAIN THE CAUSE OF MALARIA AND TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING.

ON THE ISSUE OF ANTI-MALARIAL DRUGS, DR. TURAY SPOKE OF A NATIONAL POLICY FOR MALARIA TREATMENT WHICH INDICATES THE DRUG OF CHOICE, POINTING OUT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED A QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY TO TEST ALL DRUGS COMING INTO THE COUNTRY.

DR. TURAY COMMENDED INTERNATIONAL NGO'S SUCH AS MSF, ICRC AND UNICEF FOR COLLABORATING WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN IMPLEMENTING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN EIGHT DEPRESSED AREAS IN FREETOWN.

THE MANAGER OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT, VALENTINE A. KAWA, SAID THE CAMPAIGN CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINABLE IF INSPECTORS GO OUT ON COMPOUND INSPECTION, INORDER TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM.

MR. KAWA EMPHASISED THAT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS HEALTH IS NOT A COMMODITY THAT CAN BE BOUGHT.

A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED, STATED THAT OVER EIGHTEEN THOUSAND CASES OF MALARIA WERE REPORTED BETWEEN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER AND HALF OF THIS NUMBER WERE CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

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BRANCHES OF THE SIERRA LEONE PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS ASSOCIATION [SLPDA] HAVE BEEN FORMED IN THAMBAYA AND MADINA IN THE SAMU AND TONKO LIMBA CHIEFDOMS, KAMBIA DISTRICT.

DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE AREA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION MR. N'FA ALLIE CALLED ON DRIVERS IN THE DISTRICT TO WORK OUT MODALITIES THAT WILL ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF THEIR SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC. HE ENCOURAGED THEM TO UNDERTAKE VIABLE PROJECTS SUCH AS REHABILITATION OF THE RUKUPR-KAMBIA BAMOI JUNCTION ROADS.

MR. N'FA ALLIE KAMARA COMMENDED THE ROKUPR BRANCH OF THE SLPDA FOR CONSTRUCTING A LORRY PARK, THE BAMOI , MARKET CENTRE WHICH, HE SAID WOULD EASE THE CONGESTION ALONG THE MAIN ROAD ON MARKET DAYS.

WELCOMING THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND ENTOURAGE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROKUPR BRANCH, OF SLPDA, MR. MOMODU PARTER SPOKE OF THE NEED TO CAUTION INDISCIPLINE DRIVERS.

HE URGED ALL LORRY DRIVERS TO USE THE PARK, NOTING THAT IT WOULD FORESTALL ANY ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE FOODSTUFFS FROM THE REGION DURING THE MARKET PERIOD.

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A FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS IN THE WESTERN AREA STARTED ON WEDNESDAY AT THE HENNESSY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH KISSY.

THE WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MARKS THE THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL MEETING TO BE ORGANISED BY THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SIERRA LEONE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT SYNOD, REV. S.B. HANCILES, ADVISED THE DELEGATES TO BE COURAGEOUS AND TO UPHOLD THE TENETS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

HE SAID THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE CAN BE CHARACTERISED BY HATRED, MALICE AND GRUDGE, THAT HAS EATEN THE FABRIC OF THE SOCIETY OVER THE YEARS.

THE REVEREND HANCILES SAID THAT UNTIL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY SHOW REMORSE AND ESTABLISH LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER THE STATE IS DOOMED TO COLLAPSE.

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THE BUMBUNA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HAS ENDED ITS CHRISTMAS LEAGUE WITH ZONE-TWO BEATING ZONE-ONE, 2-NIL IN THE FINAL AT THE BUMBUNA TOWN PLAYING FIELD.

THE BUMBUNA F.A. HAS MEANWHILE CALLED ON SPORTS COUNCIL OFFICIALS IN MAGBURAKA TO INTRODUCE THE LATEST FIFA AMENDMENTS IN THE RULES OF THE GAME, TO PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS IN THE TOWN. THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FOR THE TRAINING OF PLAYERS AND REFEREES.

A MINI MARATHON WAS ALSO HELD IN BUMBUNA, COVERING A DISTANCE OF ABOUT EIGHT KILO METRES TO AND FROM KATHOMBO VILLAGE. TWENTY ATHLETES TOOK PART IN THE MARATHON WHICH WAS WON BY POLICE SERGEANT ALIEU KOROMA FROM FREETOWN BRIMA KAMARA OF BUMBUNA WAS SECOND.

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SCHOOL TEACHER, MED BANYA IS THE WINNER OF A MINI TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT, ORGANISED BY SPORT OFFICIALS OF THE UP GUN BRANCH OF SIERRATEL. HE DEFEATED BOB LEBBI OF SIERRATEL BY 2 SETS TO ONE, 16-21, 21-19 AND 12-17 IN THE FINAL.

THE TWO GOT TO THE FINAL DISMISSING LANSANA BOIMA OF THE BANK OF SIERRA LEONE AND INA SESAY OF SIERRATEL IN THE SEMI FINAL.

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IN FOOTBALL THE SLFA HAS RE-ADJUSTED ITS FIXTURES FOR GIANTS F.C. TO MEET GOLF LEOPARDS TOMORROW IN THE OPEN TOURNAMENT. GIANTS WILL ALSO PLAY OLD EDWARDIANS ON SATURDAY.

DAN STREET TIGERS ON WEDNESDAY BEAT BASE 2-1 AT THE FOURAH BAY PLAYING FIELD SEASIDE MEET FOR DI PEOPLE TOMORROW.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**16 January 1998**

THE U.N TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT TEAM LED BY THE U.N. SPECIAL ENVOY, MR. FRANCIS OKELLO HAS TAKEN FORMAL LEAVE OF THE AFRC CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF STATE LT.COL. JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA AT THE END OF A THREE-DAY FACT FINDING MISSION TO SIERRA LEONE.

IN A FAREWELL STATEMENT, THE HEAD OF STATE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE DELEGATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSESS AT FIRST HAND THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND AND THE LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE NIGERIAN LED ECOMOG TROOPS IN THE CITY.

LT. COL. JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA FURTHER HOPED THAT THE WRONG PERCEPTION THEY HAD ABOUT LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS NOW CHANGED. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO ANOTHER VISIT BY THE U.N. SPECIAL ENVOY TO SPEED UP THE PEACE PROCESS.

THE HEAD OF STATE REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE REALISATION OF PEACE AND SANITY TO HIS COUNTRY.

IN RESPONSE, MR. OKELLO INFORMED THE HEAD OF STATE THAT THEY HAD OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING WHAT HE CALLED VERY USEFUL MEETING. HE TOLD THE HEAD OF STATE THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE ENTIRE VISIT, WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL.

ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATION, MR. OKELLO EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE HOSPITALITY ACCORDED THEM AND THE FACILITIES PUT AT THEIR DISPOSAL DURING THEIR STAY.

ADDRESSING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS AT THE CAPE SIERRA LEONE HOTEL YESTERDAY, THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY FRANCIS OKELLO, APPEALED TO THE MEDIA IN SIERRA LEONE TO BE EFFECTIVE PARTNERS IN THE SEARCH FOR LASTING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

MR. OKELLO OBSERVED THAT THE MEDIA PRACTITIONERS THE WORLD OVER ARE SO POWERFUL THAT THE THINKING AND ACTION OF PEOPLE IN MOST CASES ARE INFLUENCED BY WHAT THEY WRITE AND SAY.



AMBASSADOR OKELLO REAFFIRMED THE U.N.'S RESOLVE TO ENSURE LASTING PEACE AND THE RESTORATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN SIERRA LEONE BY APRIL 22ND THIS YEAR.

ACCORDING TO SLENA, ENVOY OKELLO SAID, THEY WERE NOT HERE TO REVIEW, RE- NEGOTIATE OR COMPROMISE THE CONAKRY PEACE ACCORD BUT TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL AVENUES THAT WILL FACILITATE IT.

HE SAID, ONE OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL, WILL BE TO SPEED UP THE DISPATCH OF THE U.N. OBSERVER TEAM TO SIERRA LEONE DURING THE DEMOBILIZATION DISARMAMENT AND REINTEGRATION PROCESS.

THE SPECIAL ENVOY CITED THE AFRC'S CONCERN WHICH INCLUDE THE RELEASE OF CORPORAL FODAY SANKOH, THE DOMINANT ROLE OF THE NIGERIANS IN ECOMOG AND THE DISARMING OF THE NATIONAL ARMY. THESE POINTS HE SAID, HE WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO REPORT TO THE U.N.

MR. OKELLO SAID MUCH PROGRESS NEEDS TO BE MADE ON THE KEY ELEMENTS AND THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVES OF THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN DURING THIS SECOND HALF OF THE SIX MONTHS.

THE AFRC SECRETARY GENERAL, COLONEL ABDUL KARIM SESAY WHO CHAIRED THE CONFERENCE STATED THE AFRC'S STANCE ON SEVERAL ISSUES IN THE PEACE PLAN, AND PROMISED TO COMPLY WITH THE PLAN.

BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, MR FRANCIS OKELLO AND HIS TECHNICAL SURVEY TEAM YESTERDAY MADE A CONDUCTED TOUR OF THE UNICEF WAREHOUSE AND OFFICE, THE SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY AND THE QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND QUAY.

ADDRESSING SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE AREAS VISITED AND AT THE CIVIC RECEPTION ORGANISED AT THE CITY HALL, MR OKELLO SAID THE UNITED NATIONS IS PREPARED TO ENSURE PEACE PREVAILS IN SIERRA LEONE.

THE U.N. SPECIAL ENVOY WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS BETWEEN GUINEA AND SIERRA LEONE TO AID THE SUPPLY OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF INCLUDING BASIC ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES WILL COMMENCE SOON.

HE ALSO PRAYED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES BESIEGING SIERRA LEONEANS AT THE MOMENT DOES NOT PROLONG, STRESSING THAT SIERRA LEONEANS SHOULD NOT DESPAIR.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE CHAIRMAN FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, DR. WILTSHIRE JOHNSON, SAID THAT THE VISIT OF THE U.N.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO SIERRA LEONE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE SIERRA LEONEAN CRISIS.

DR. JOHNSON APPEALED FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE THREE STAKEHOLDERS IN REACHING AN AMICABLE SOLUTION TO THE SIERRA LEONEAN PROBLEM.

AT THE UNICEF NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL WAREHOUSE, MR. MURTALA SESAY WELCOMED THE DELEGATES AND SAID THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF UNICEF TO SEEK THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

MR. MURTADA SESAY COMMENTED ON THE DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF THE WAREHOUSE AND APPEALED TO THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY TO RESUSCITATE IT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN ESPECIALLY SINCE THE IMMUNIZATION SERVICES PROVIDED FOR THEM HAD DECLINED TO ABOUT TWENTY FIVE PERCENT.

HE ASSURED THE TEAM THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THEIR SERVICES DURING THE DEMOBILIZATION, ENCAMPMENT AND REINTEGRATION OF EX-CHILD COMBATANTS.

AT THE SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY, MR.A.D. JACKSON BRIEFED THE DELEGATES ON THE ROLE OF THE ROADS AUTHORITY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED FOUR YEARS AGO.

MR. JACKSON SAID THAT DESPITE THE SANCTIONS AND EMBARGO THEY ARE WORKING HARD TO ENSURE THAT THEIR OPERATIONS CONTINUE.

THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY AND HIS TEAM ALSO ASSESSED THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND QUAY BY THE ECOMOG.

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THE OFFICER COMMANDING AFRC SECRETARY IN BO, CAPTAIN ABU BAKARR KAMARA, HAS SAID THAT MIS-INFORMATION HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING DISCORD BETWEEN KAMAJORS AND GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION.

ADDRESSING A LARGE CROWD AT THE BO LORRY PARK YESTERDAY, CAPTAIN KAMARA APPEALED TO ALL SIERRA LEONEANS TO REFRAIN FROM WHAT HE CALLED MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA WHICH HE SAID HAS ALWAYS RESULTED IN LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

THE AFRC SECRETARIAT COMMANDER AMIDST THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE DECLARED A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR ALL KAMAJORS WHO ARE WILLING TO

SURRENDER THEIR ARMS ADDING THAT IT IS ONLY THROUGH SUCH ESPIRIT-DE-CORP THAT PEACE AND STABILITY CAN BE GUARANTEED.

CAPT. KAMARA INTRODUCED, A CAPTURED KAMAJOR, SENESSIE KOROMA WHO SAID HE HAS BEEN ACCORDED WHAT HE CALLED A HUMANE TREATMENT SINCE HIS ARREST. HE CONGRATULATED TEACHERS FOR REPORTING FOR DUTY SINCE THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL.

IN HIS REMARKS, THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE OCCASION WHO IS ALSO REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE AFRC SECRETARIAT, MOHAMED MAKIE CONTEH CALLED ON THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND DRIVERS IN PARTICULAR TO INCULCATE THE HABIT OF GIVING ACCURATE INFORMATION TO THE WARRING FACTIONS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE ACCORDING TO SLENA, THE HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE UNIT, MAJOR A.R. THORONKA ASSURED THE PEOPLE OF MAXIMUM SECURITY IN THE SOUTHERN REGION AS FROM NOW ONWARD.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE EDUCATION, SAHR KAIGBANJA, HAS TOLD STUDENTS OF THE SAINT EDWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT FORT STREET THAT IT IS THE DUTY AND CONCERN OF THE AFRC GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THEM.

SPEAKING DURING A RELIEF VISIT TO THE SCHOOL TODAY, THE EDUCATION SECRETARY NOTED THAT STUDENTS SHOULD NOT SUFFER BECAUSE OF A POLITICAL CHANGE AND CALLED FOR THE CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS TO ENSURE A CONDUCTIVE SCHOOLING ATMOSPHERE.

HE PROMISED THAT THE AFRC GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE SCHOOL MATERIALS TO STUDENTS AND SAID THAT GOVERNMENT IS INVESTING IN THEM SO THAT THEY CAN BE ASSETS TO THE NATION.

WELCOMING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE HEADTEACHER, MR. KAMARA KARGBO SAID THE CATHOLIC MISSION PUTS A HIGH PREMIUM ON EDUCATION AND OBSERVED THAT POLITICS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH EDUCATION. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM SHOULD BE REVIEWED TO CONTINUE EFFECTIVE, STRESSING THAT THEY HAVE A DUTY TO PERFORM.

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THE MALAMATONIANS YOUTHS ORGANISATION IS NOW EMBARKING ON A DAILY CLEANING EXERCISE AROUND MALAMA THOMAS STREET AND THE P.Z. AREA.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SLBS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALAMATONIANS YOUTH ORGANISATION MR. IBRAHIM SORIE KAMARA SAID THE ORGANISATION HAS A DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO CLEANING THEIR ENVIRONMENT SINCE THE AREA IS LOCATED IN THE CENTRE TOWN WHERE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE.

THE GROUP IS ALSO ENGAGED IN CARING FOR THE MENTALLY DERANGED PEOPLE IS DEPLORABLE ESPECIALLY IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE CITY WHERE TRADERS SELL FOODSTUFF.

ASKED ABOUT PROBLEMS, THE ORGANISATION FACES IN ITS ACTIVITIES, MR. KAMARA SAID THAT MAJOR ONES WERE THE ABSENCE OF WORKING MATERIALS, USED CLOTHING AND FOOD FOR THE MENTALLY DISTURBED AND OTHER PEOPLE IN VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE APPEALED TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THAT AREA, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO COME TO THEIR AID SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE THEIR WORK FULLSCALE.

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MEDICINS SA N FRONTIERS [MSF] HOLLAND COLLABORATION WITH KAMBIA GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL HAS PROVIDED TOILET FACILITIES FOR OFFICERS AND INMATES OF THE KAMBIA PRISONS.

THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF PRISONS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS [DSP], SAIDU BOBOR SESAY TOLD SLENA THAT THE FIVE TOILETS CONSTRUCTED AT THE PRISONS YARD AND THE QUARTERS WAS A SELF HELP PROJECT INITIATED BY THE OFFICERS IN-CHARGE OF THE PRISONS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISON [DSP] SAMUEL JABBIE.

MR. SESAY DESCRIBED MSF'S INTERVENTION AS TIMELY AND A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, ADDING THAT THE FACILITY WOULD AMELIORATE THEIR SANITATION PROBLEMS AND ENSURE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

HE COMMENDED THE KAMBIA CATHOLIC PARISH PRIEST, REV. FATHER VICTOR MORSELLE FOR PROVIDING INMATES OF THE PRISONS WITH FOOD, CASH AND MEDICINES, AND THANKED THE RED CROSS SOCIETY FOR SUPPLYING BLANKETS, FOOTWEAR AND TOILETRIES TO THE PRISONERS.

ABOUT SIX CASES OF THEFT ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM AND THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL RECENTLY.

THE LATEST OCCURRED ON THURSDAY NIGHT WHEN THIEVES BROKE INTO THE OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL AND ATHLETICS ASSOCIATIONS AND MADE AWAY WITH SPORTS EQUIPMENT. ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT THIEVES

MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OFFICE FOR THE THIRD TIME AND REMOVED A FAX MACHINE AND COMPUTER KEYBOARD.

ALSO A TELEVISION SET AND OTHER ITEMS STOLEN FROM THE OFFICE THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHILE OVER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND LEONES IN CASH WAS STOLEN FROM THE SAFE OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL. THE MONEY WAS PART OF SALARIES MEANT FOR NSC REGIONAL WORKERS.

THE SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, THE ANNOUNCER'S ROOM AT THE MAIN BOWL AND THE SLFA OFFICE HAVE ALSO BEEN AFFECTED.

REACTING, THE NATIONAL STADIUM MANAGER, SAIDU MANSARAY EXPRESSED DISGUST AT THE FREQUENCY OF THEFT AT THE STADIUM COMPLEX.

THE OFFICER IN-CHARGE OF THE STADIUM POLICE POST, SUPERINTENDENT J.M. MUSA BLAMED THE PROBLEM ON THE INADEQUATE CONTROL OF MOVEMENTS OF UNAUTHORISED PERSONS IN AND OUT OF THE STADIUM.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT MUSA SAID A GOOD NUMBER OF PEOPLE INCLUDING WORKERS, ARE USING THE STADIUM AS THEIR RESIDENCE ADDING THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME OF THEM MAY BE INVOLVED. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE SAID THAT POLICE PERSONNEL MANNING THE STADIUM ARE INADEQUATE AND CALLED FOR MORE ARMED PERSONNEL PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT.

A RESIDENT OF THE STADIUM WHO IS ALSO EMPLOYED AS A PLUMBER, IS ALSO HELPING THE POLICE IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS. SOURCES SAY EXHIBITS RELATING TO THE LATEST THEFT WERE FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION.

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**News Releases**  
**18 January 1998**

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS APPEALED TO STUDENTS TO REFRAIN FROM MIS-USING THE FREE BUS SERVICE PROVIDED FOR THEM. ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT, SOME STUDENTS DON'T CLIMB DOWN FROM THE BUSES EVEN WHEN THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATIONS. IT ALSO STATES THAT THEY HAVE STARTED VANDALIZING THE BUSES, TEARING THE SEAT COVERS AND CAUSING OTHER DAMAGES TO THE BUSES. OTHERS ARE SAID TO HAVE THREATENED TO THROW STONES AT THE BUSES IF THE DRIVERS DON'T STOP AT CERTAIN POINTS.

THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THE ACTION OF THE STUDENTS UNWARRANTED AND ANY ONE CAUGHT WILL BE PENALIZED.

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THE CIVIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTRE [CDEC] HAS APPEALED TO OTHER NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO RESUME THEIR OPERATIONS TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF SIERRA LEONEANS .

CDEC IS ALSO CONCERNED AT THE SHORTAGE OF FOODSTUFF AND IS ENCOURAGING YOUTH GROUPS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ARREST THE SITUATION.

SPEAKING TO SLBS NEWS, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, MR. CORNELIUS DEVEAUX SAID THE ORGANISATION IS HELPING YOUTH GROUPS THAT NEED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF FOOD PRODUCTION. HE OBSERVED THAT IMPORTED GOODS LIKE WHEAT FLOUR, MAYONNAISE, TOMATOES AND JAM ARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRY AND SPOKE OF HIS ORGANISATION'S PLAN TO EMBARK ON THE PRODUCTION OF SUBSTITUTES USING LOCAL TECHNOLOGY TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF OUR PEOPLE. HE SAID SAMPLES OF THESE SUBSTITUTES WILL SOON BE ON DISPLAY TO MOTIVATE YOUTH GROUPS TO EMBRACE THE IDEA.

ON BEHALF OF CDEC, MR. DEVEAUX EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO OTHER NGO'S LIKE THE I.C.R.C. THAT HAVE BEEN RENDERING VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

CDEC WAS ESTABLISHED SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO TO UNDERTAKE SELF HELP PROJECTS INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES, HEALTH CENTRES, SCHOOLS AND THE SENSITIZATION OF PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION BROADCASTING, TOURISM AND CULTURE HAS REMINDED NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS THAT THE REGISTRATION AND RE-REGISTRATION OF NEWSPAPERS WILL START BY THE END OF THIS MONTH AT THE YOUYI BUILDING IN FREETOWN.

ACCORDING TO A RELEASE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE DECISION IS AS A RESULT OF WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS RECENT DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS LEADING TO THE BRUTALISATION OF JOURNALISTS BY SOME SECTION OF THE PUBLIC.

THE RELEASE STATES THAT GOVERNMENT DEEMS IT URGENT TO PROTECT ITS PRESS UNDER AN ORDERLY ATMOSPHERE.

PRINTERS AND VENDORS ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO VERIFY THAT THE NEWSPAPERS THEY PRINT OR SELL ARE REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TO AVOID ANY FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT THE RELEASE ADDS.

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BALMER MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH JOHN STREET HAS CLIMAXED CELEBRATIONS MARKING ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY WITH A THANKSGIVING SERVICE ON THE THEME RISE UP AND BUILD.

PREACHING AT A WELL ATTENDED SERVICE TODAY, THE REVEREND S.B. HANCILES WHO IS CHAIRMAN WESTERN DISTRICT URGED THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH AND THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION TO EMULATE THE GOOD VIRTUES OF NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER OF OLD WHO MADE BASIC SACRIFICES TO ENHANCE GOD'S WORK. HE NOTED THAT INORDER TO KEEP IN LINE WITH THEIR THEME THEY MUST RISE UP TO BUILD THE WALLS OF LOVE, SACRIFICE AND FORGIVENESS IF THE CHURCH AND THE COUNTRY AT LARGE SHOULD PROSPER.

REVEREND HANCILES REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE GOOD WORK OF THE ONE TIME PRINCIPAL OF THE METHODIST BOYS HIGH SCHOOL WHOSE NAME THE CHURCH NOW HOLDS AND ADVISED THEM TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS OF THE CHURCH.

THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH AND THE LAUNCHING BY REVEREND C.V.A. PEACOCK OF A PROJECT TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH FORMED THE HIGH POINT OF THE SERVICE.

SPEAKING TO OUR REPORTER, THE OLDEST MEMBER IN THE CHURCH MR. THOMAS MONROVIA WHO WAS LAST YEAR'S FATHER OF THE YEAR NOTED THAT THE CHURCH WAS FORMED IN 1958 BY A MENDE CHIEF YAGBAI AT HIS HOME AT ADELAIDE STREET.

MR. MONROVIA GAVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HOW THE CHURCH PROGRESSED TILL IT WAS CONSTRUCTED ON ITS PRESENT LOCATION AND PAID TRIBUTE TO SEVERAL WHITE MISSIONARIES AND REVEREND KARANKAY THE FIRST CATYCYST WHO WAS ORDAINED TO LEAD THE CHURCH.

HE CALLED ON THE YOUTH AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO PUT THE CHURCH ON A RIGHT FOOTING.

SEVERAL NOTABLE PERSONALITIES INCLUDING THE ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL MASS, MEDIA SERVICES MR. GIPU FELIX GEORGE GRACED THE OCCASION.

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THE NATIONAL POWER AUTHORITY HAS CALLED ON WELDING PLANT OPERATORS TO ENSURE THAT PROPER ELECTRICAL WIRING AND EFFECTIVE EARTHING SYSTEMS ARE INSTALLED AT THEIR RESPECTIVE WORKSHOPS.

THE CALL FOLLOWED COMPLAINTS FROM N.P.A. CUSTOMERS ABOUT FREQUENT LIGHT FLUCTUATION DUE TO WELDING PLANTS OPERATIONS. THE FLUCTUATION OF LIGHT HAS RESULTED IN DAMAGES TO DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES.

THE N.P.A. HAS SET UP A TASK FORCE TO MONITOR WELDING PLANT OPERATIONS AND WILL DISCONNECT DEFAULTERS.

THERE ARE OVER THIRTY WELDING PLANTS IN THE CITY.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, MINERAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAS WARNED AGAINST THE INDISCRIMINATE BURNING OF TREES ALONG THE HILLSIDES OF THE WESTERN AREA.

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT REMINDS THE PUBLIC THAT TREE PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGH THE



PREVENTION OF SOIL EROSION, THE ENHANCEMENT OF SOIL FERTILITY AND WATER CONSERVATION.

IT STATES ALSO THAT TREES ACT AS SINK FOR GREEN GASES PROVIDE OXYGEN AND CARBONDIOXIDE AND CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARDS PROMOTING ECO TOURISM.

THE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT STRESSED THAT SETTING FIRE TO TREES AND BUSES CAN LEAD TO THE LOSS OF LIVES AND PROPERTIES.

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THE ANNUAL AND END OF RAMADAN LANTERN PARADE WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR.

A RELEASE FROM ORGANISERS, THE YOUNG MEN'S MUSLIM ASSOCIATION BLAMED THE PROBLEM ON WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS THE LACK OF SPONSORSHIP.

IT ALSO STATED THAT SOME MISGUIDED MASQUERADERS AND RENEGADES MAY WANT TO USE THE OCCASION TO COME OUT WITH WHAT IT CALLED PROVOCATIVE SONGS AND SLOGANS THAT MAY EMBARRASS BOTH THE ORGANISERS AND POLITICAL LEADERS.

THE YOUNG MEN'S MUSLIM ASSOCIATION IS HOWEVER PLANNING TO HOST A SPORT JAMBOREE ON EID UL FITRI DAY.

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THE SIERRA LEONE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IS TO START ITS SECOND DIVISION LEAGUE IN TWO MONTHS TIME.

REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED CLUBS HAS ALREADY STARTED AT THE ASSOCIATION'S SECRETARIAT.

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ALSO IN FOOTBALL, FIRST DIVISION REGENTS OLYMPIC HAS CALLED ON QUALIFIED PERSONS TO APPLY FOR THE POST OF COACH.

FOOTBALL ANALYSTS SAY THE MOVE MAY BE UNCONNECTED WITH THE TEAM'S POOR PERFORMANCE OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS. THE NEW COACH IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE ON THE PRESENT STANDARD OF THE TEAM BEFORE THE NEXT LEAGUE SEASON.

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A WEEK LONG BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, ORGANISED BY THE EAST WING CLUB IS TO COMMENCE TOMORROW AT THE MURIALDO TRAINING INSTITUTE KISSY, WITH ALLAN RAIDERS MEETING PHOENIX SUM, THE MATCH WILL BE PRECEDED BY A SLAM DUNK COMPETITION FOR KEY PLAYERS.

THE TOURNAMENT IS IN HONOUR OF THE SAINT JOSEPH FATHERS, RESIDENT AT THE INSTITUTE.

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**31 January 1998**

A PROJECT FOR A POST WAR NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF DRUG ABUSE IN SIERRA LEONE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

THE PROJECT PROPOSAL WHICH WAS PRESENTED AT THE ORGANISATION FOURTH REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BANJUL BY SIERRA LEONE'S DELEGATION WILL FOCUS ON FIELD RESEARCH, NATIONWIDE SURVEY TRAINING WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND DRUG ABUSE MESSAGES.

ACCORDING TO THE SIERRA LEONE NEWS AGENCY, THE I.O.G.T. DIRECTOR IN SIERRA LEONE, MR. A.B.S. KAMARA DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS VERY EDUCATIVE AND REWARDING, NOTING THAT THE EXCESSIVE INTAKE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, COCAINE AND HEROIN WILL BE I.O.G.T'S PRIMARY FOCUS FOR THIS YEAR.

HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN PARTICULAR, TO INCLUDE DRUG ABUSE IN THE CURRICULUM OF SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITY TO HIGHLIGHT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF DRUGS ON THE MINDS OF STUDENTS.

THE I.O.G.T. COUNTRY DIRECTOR, APPEALED TO THE MEDIA TO INTENSIFY DRUG ABUSE PUBLICITY AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON THE ILLEGAL USE OF BANNED DRUGS WHICH DO NOT ONLY DAMAGE THE ACTIVE CLASS OF A SOCIETY BUT THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY.

I.O.G.T., WAS ESTABLISHED ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGNS TO SAVE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY FROM BECOMING A LIABILITY TO SOCIETY.

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A SAND COLLECTION TASK FORCE WAS TODAY INAUGURATED AT THE LAKKA COMMUNITY CENTRE.

ADDRESSING MEMBERS AT THE MEETING, THE SECRETARY OF STATE INTERNAL AFFAIRS BRIGADIER DR. K.I.S. KAMARA SAID THAT THE

MONITORING TEAM SHOULD WORK IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE WITH TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF FEW PEOPLE WHO BENEFITED FROM THE REVENUE DERIVED FROM THOUSANDS OF TONS OF SAND REMOVED FROM THE VILLAGE WITHOUT IMPROVING IT.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE, EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND YOUTH MR. ABDUL SALAAM WILLIAMS ENCOURAGED THE PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN DECISION MAKING AND ADVISED THE YOUTH TO BE HARD WORKING AND SELF RELIANT.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MINISTRY OF LANDS MR. I.S. MACAULEY REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT SAND COLLECTION IS A SOURCES OF REVENUE AND ADVISED THE TASK FORCE NOT TO INTERFERE IN VILLAGE ACTIVITIES BUT MONITOR SAND COLLECTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA.

HE SAID THE FORMATION OF THE TASK FORCE WILL HELP CLEAR THE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT EXISTED AMONG THE TIPPER DRIVERS, VILLAGE HEADMEN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION, MR. N'FA ALIE KAMARA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE MINISTRY OF LANDS FOR GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPOINT PEOPLE TO THE TASK FORCE.

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MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS AT THE EDMOND ASSOCIATES, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION IN THE EAST END OF FREETOWN, ARE BENEFIT FROM A REVOLVING LOAN OPERATED BY A COOPERATIVE SOCIETY SET UP RECENTLY.

THE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR LESS FORTUNATE BOYS AN GIRLS WILL PROVIDE FUNDS FOR MATERIALS AND TOOLS TO SKILLED TRAINEES AT THE END OF THEIR COURSES AT THE EDMOND ASSOCIATE'S SKILLED TRAINING CENTRE.

ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL COORDINATOR OF THE EDMOND ASSOCIATES MR HENRY SESAY, OVER SIXTY DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS ARE TO RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES IN VARIOUS DISCIPLINES AT THE END OF AN INTENSIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING.

MR. SESAY SAID TAILORING, CARPENTRY MOTOR MECHANIC AND OTHER MIDDLE LEVEL MAN POWER SKILLS, ARE PROVIDED TO BOYS AND GIRLS IN AT LEASE ONE YEAR TO PEOPLE THEM FOR SOCIETY.

THE CO-ORDINATOR DISCLOSED TO SLENA THAT EDMOND AND ASSOCIATES HAVE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS REINTEGRATED REHABILITATED AND PARTIALLY PROVIDE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES TO STREET YOUTHS AND OTHERS FROM POOR HOMES.

HE LANDED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, CATHOLIC BROTHERS IN ENGLAND, CARITAS IN GERMANY, AND SEVERAL LOCALLY BASED NGO'S FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE TRAINING CENTRE.

EDMOND AND ASSOCIATES WAS FOUNDED FEW YEARS AGE TO PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH FOOD AND TECHNICAL SKILL FOR SELF RELIANCE.

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THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SIERRA LEONE RED CROSS SOCIETY, MR. ERNEST CUMMINGS HAS APPEALED TO VOLUNTEERS IN THE NORTHERN REGION TO OBSERVE THE SOCIETY'S PRINCIPLES IN ACTIVITIES.

MR. CUMMINGS WHO WAS ON A TWO DAY VISIT TO ASSESS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RED CROSS IN KAMBIA AND PORT LOKO DISTRICTS, SAID HE WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PORT LOKO BRANCH.

ADDRESSING A MEETING AT THEIR LUNSAR ROAD OFFICE LAST WEDNESDAY SAID THE LUST FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES SHOULD NOT BE THE MAIN MOTIVE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY.

MR CUMMINGS SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT RECENT FOOD PACKAGE DISTRIBUTION IN THE TOWN WAS SATISFACTORILY UNDERTAKEN WITH SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC).

THE RED CROSS SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THE SOCIETY WAS BORN OUT OF DESIRE TO ASSIST VULNERABLE PERSONS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AS WELL TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERINGS. HE ENCOURAGE THEM TO OBSERVE THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY, IMPARTIALITY AND NEUTRALITY IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PUBLIC.

MR. CUMMINGS WARNED RED CROSS MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY THAT THE RED CROSS EMBLEM SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN THEY ARE CARRYING OUT AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES, NOTING THAT THE SOCIETY WILL NOT ENCOURAGE ITS MISUSE.

BE CONGRATULATED THE PORT LOKO BRANCH ON THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW OFFICE AND A CLINIC AND THANKED THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

THE BRANCH CHAIRMAN MR. C.F. KAMARA DISCLOSED THAT ABOUT FIFTEEN THOUSAND VULNERABLE PERSON BENEFITED FROM THE RECENT FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND ON THEIR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PACKAGE WHICH HE SAID WAS TIMELY.

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THE NEWLY REINSTATED TEMNE TRIBAL HEADMAN FOR THE WESTERN AREA, CHIEF ALHAJI ABU BLACK LUGBU KAMARA HAS CALLED ON TEMNES TO AVOID A LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE AND WORK TO CONSOLIDATE THE NEW FOUND PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE.

SPEAKING TO OUR REPORTER, CHIEF ABU BLACK SAID HIS TASK IS TO UNITY ALL THE TEMNES IN THE WESTERN AREA AND END THE LONG TERM LEADERSHIP STALEMATE.

HE SAID HIS PRIORITY WOULD BE THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY WHICH ARE PREREQUISITES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATION.

CHIEF ABU BLACK SAID HIS REINSTATEMENT IS A CHALLENGE, STRESSING THAT GONE ARE DAYS WHEN TRIBAL SENTIMENTS UNDERMINE THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. CHIEF ABU BLACK LUGBU KAMARA WAS SUSPENDED FROM OFFICE EARLY 1996 AS A RESULT OF A PETITION AGAINST HIS APPOINTMENT AND PERFORMANCE FILED BY A CROSS-SECTION OF THE TEMNE COMMUNITY IN THE WESTERN AREA.

THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN STRONGLY ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REFRAIN FROM BUYING (CSB) CORN SOYA BEANS (BLENDED) PRESENTLY ON SALE IN THE MARKETS FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

THE CORN SOYA BEANS (BLENDED) HAS BEEN TESTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH LABORATORY AND WAS FOUND TO BE CONTAMINATED WITH DANGEROUS GERMS WHICH CAN CAUSE SEVERE DIARRHOEA, ABDOMINAL CRAMPS AND DEATH.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CONFISCATE ANY QUANTITY OF THE COMMODITY FOUND ON SALE AND PROSECUTE THE TRADERS IF NECESSARY.

IT COULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) HAS ALERTED THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING A CONSIGNMENT OF INFESTED CORN-SOYA BEAN (CSB) KNOWN AS BLENDED, ON SALE IN THE MARKET.

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A LOUD EXPLOSION ROCKED THE KOIDU NEW SEMBEHUN TOWNSHIP IN THE KONO DISTRICT RECENTLY. THE EXPLOSION WHICH WAS HEAD SEVERAL MILES AWAY SENT A HUGE COLUMN OF SMOKE TO THE SKY, NO DEATH WAS REPORTED.

ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES CORRESPONDENT IN KONO, THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED ON THE KIMBERLITE HILL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KONO. IT WAS CAUSED BY AN ABANDONED BOX OF KIMBERLITE MINING EXPLOSIVES WHICH WAS ACCIDENTALLY IGNITED BY A BUSH FIRE STARTED BY AN OLD LADY, PREPARING A PIECE OF LAND FOR GARDENING.

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER ENERGY DIVISION, MR. SIDIQUE SILLAH SAID THE EXPLOSIVES WERE ABANDONED BY THE FORMER N.D.M.C. AT A MAGAZINE DEPOT WHEN REBELS STRUCK KOIDU IN 1992.

HE DENIED ANY NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF HIS KIMBERLITE MINING COMPANY AS WELL AS RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION TO DAMAGED PROPERTIES.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**1 February 1998**

**SLBS Radio, 1 February 1998, 20:00 GMT**

The AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council] today called for the immediate release of six people believed to have been kidnapped by the Nigerian forces in Jui and Lungi. A press release issued by the Department of Information said the AFRC is vehemently opposed to such inhuman acts that abuse human rights and freedom of movement, association, choice, and speech.

The release named the Director of Political Affairs in the Foreign Department, Mr. William Bangura, a driver, Mr. Alhassan Sylla, and Sergeant Turay from the Security, as the three Sierra Leoneans kidnapped. Others include Mr. Cherif Haidara, a Guinean, Mr. A.K. Sekou, an Ivorian, and Alhaji Mainassara from Niger.

The release further called on Nigeria to stop harassing the citizens of Sierra Leone [words indistinct] their rights for travel freely within Sierra Leone, and engage in business in and out of the country.

The release appealed to the Nigerians to respect the rights of every citizen who consciously works toward enacting the Conakry Agreement for lasting peace. Let us work for peace [words indistinct] toward constitutional order, the release concluded.



**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**1 February 1998**

THE CHAIRMAN AFRC AND HEAD OF STATE THIS WEEKEND GRANTED AUDIENCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE HOMELESS, DISABLED AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT HIS SPUR ROAD OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.

DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS, LT. COL. KOROMA ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR POTENTIAL IN PRODUCING LOCALLY MANUFACTURED AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, HOUSE HOLD UTENSILS AND OTHER MATERIALS. HE PROMISED THAT HE WILL DO EVERYTHING TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THEIR PRODUCTS BY SIERRA LEONEANS, TO CURTAIL EXPENDITURE ON FOREIGN GOODS.

LT.COL. KOROMA ASSURED THEM OF HIS FULLEST SUPPORT AND ASKED THE GROUP TO WRITE A PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUESTING FOR FUNDING FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES.

PAYING A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SHEIKU SHEKI, THE HEAD OF STATE SAID HE WAS A VERY FINE CRAFTSMAN CAPABLE OF MAKING ALL TYPES OF TOOLS AND ENCOURAGED MEMBERS OF OHDRAD TO EMULATE HIM.

EARLIER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANISATION FOR THE HOMELESS, DISABLED AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SAID THAT THEIR MAIN PROBLEM WAS TO SECURE A LAND FOR ERECTING A MULTI PURPOSE COMPLEX/HOME WITH BOARDING FACILITIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE COMPLEX WILL ALSO HAVE CLASSROOMS AND WORKSHOPS FOR TRAINING THE BENEFICIARIES IN VARIOUS SKILLS.

IN HIS VOTE OF THANKS, MR. MAKINSON EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OTHER NEEDY FRIENDS IN THE INACCESSIBLE AREAS.

THE GROUP PRESENTED AN OFFICE SOUVENIR OF THE SIERRA LEONE FLAG AND THE COAT OF ARMS MADE OUT OF BRASS AND MELTED COINS, MOUNTED ON A WOODEN PLATE, TO THE CHAIRMAN WHO ALSO GAVE THEM A GIFT IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR CREATIVITY.

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THE AFRC TODAY CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF SIX PEOPLE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY NIGERIAN FORCES IN JUI AND LUNGI.

A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SAID THE AFRC IS VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO SUCH INHUMAN ACTS THAT ABUSE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, ASSOCIATION, CHOICE AND SPEECH.

THE RELEASE NAMED THE DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, MR WILLIAMS BANGURA; A DRIVER MR. ALHASSAN SILLAH AND SGT. TURAY A SECURITY AS THE THREE SIERRA LEONEANS KIDNAPPED OTHERS INCLUDE MR. SHERIFF HIDARA, A GUINEAN, MR.A. KEITH SEKOU AND ALHAJI MAINASARA FROM NIGER.

THE RELEASE FURTHER CALLED ON NIGERIA TO STOP HARASSING THE CITIZENS OF SIERRA LEONE AND ENGAGE IN BUSINESS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

THE RELEASE APPEALED TO THE NIGERIANS TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF EVERY CITIZEN AND CAUTIOUSLY WORK TOWARDS ENACTING THE CONAKRY AGREEMENT FOR LASTING PEACE.

"LET US WORK FOR PEACE AS WE CHALLENGE THE GREAT ROAD TOWARDS CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER" THE RELEASE CONCLUDED.

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE TRADE INDUSTRY AND STATE ENTERPRISES MR. MOHAMED ADIKALI BANGURA HAS CALLED ON BUTCHERS TO SELL MEAT AT A REASONABLE PRICE, AFFORDABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF CONSUMERS.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WAS ADDRESSING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE AMALGAMATED BUTCHERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY WHO PAID HIM A COURTESY CALL AT HIS GEORGE STREET OFFICE.

MR. BANGURA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BUTCHERS HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SOCIETY, SINCE THEY ARE ENGAGED IN MEAT TRADE WHICH IS AVAILABLE SOURCE OF PROTEIN FOR THE COMMUNITY.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE THANKED THE DELEGATION FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THEIR TIMELY VISIT AND ASSURED THEM OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE STATUS OF BUTCHERS. HE ASSURED THEM THAT THE ACTION PLAN OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

EARLIER, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION IBRAHIM GUMBU SMART, CONGRATULATED MR. BANGURA ON HIS APPOINTMENT ADDING THAT BEING AS A BUSINESSMAN HIMSELF HE WILL BE ABLE TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

MR. GUMBU SMART CATALOGUED THE ACTION PLAN OF THE ASSOCIATION AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO DEVISE A PROGRAMME WHEREIN BUTCHERS WILL BE SENSITIZED ON HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS.

HE SPOKE ABOUT THEIR CONSTRAINTS AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF BUTCHERS BY PROVIDING MODERN ABATTOIRS AN PROGRAMMES FOR BUTCHERS AND CATTLE WEARERS.

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THE TEMNE TRIBAL HEADMAN OF THE WESTERN AREA, HAS PRAISED THE AFRC GOVERNMENT FOR RE-APPOINTING HIM AS CHIEF OF THE TEMNE PEOPLE.

ADDRESSING A GATHERING DURING HIS MEETING SINCE HIS RE-APPOINTMENT, ALHAJI ABU LUGBA BLACK KAMARA NOTED THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE TEMNE PEOPLE WERE TRAMPLE UPON BUT ADDING THE WISE DECISION OF THE HEAD OF STATE HAS BROUGHT HOPE TO TEMNES IN THE WESTERN AREA.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, TRADE, INDUSTRY AND STATE ENTERPRISES, MR. M. ADIKALIE BANGURA WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING CALLED ON ALL SIERRA LEONEANS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY UNITE AND RE-BUILD SIERRA LEONE. HE APPEALED TO ALL FIGHTING FACTIONS TO JOIN THE AFRC FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE.

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE, MR. SUFFIAN KARGBO A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE U.S.A. MR.TASMAN KAMARA, MRS. KADI SAWYER AND KAI BANGURA WHO CALLED ON SIERRA LEONEANS TO FORGIVE ONE AND OTHER.

A CONGRATULATION MESSAGE TO THE REINSTATED CHIEF FROM DR. JOHN KAREFA-SMART CURRENTLY IN AMERICA WAS READ BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMNE COMMUNITY, SHEIK WULATI SESAY-- CHAIRMAN TEMNE COMMUNITY.

TOMORROW/TODAY IS THE DEAD LINE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NEWS PAPER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, MR. S.D. KAMARA FORMS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NEWS PAPER AND THE RENEWAL OF LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MINISTRY'S YOUYI BUILDING OFFICE.

SPEAKING TO SLBS NEWS, MR. KAMARA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF NEWSPAPERS NOTING THAT SINCE 1996 MOST NEWS PAPERS HAVE NOT REGISTERED WITH THE MINISTRY.

HE SAID THEY ARE PLANNING TO COUNT THE NUMBERS OF NEWSPAPER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE PROFESSIONALISM AND QUALITY.

COMMENTING ON THE REQUIREMENT OF EDITORS, THE DIRECTOR AFFIRMED THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION THAT IS, A UNIVERSITY DEGREE WITH A JOURNALISM BIAS.

MR. KAMARA ALSO CONFIRMED THE SUSPENSION OF THE STANDARD TIMES NEWS PAPER PENDING INVESTIGATIONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ORDER TO SUSPEND PUBLICATION CAME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN THE NEWS PAPER LAST WEEK WHICH STATE THAT OUSTED PRESIDENT TEJAN KABBA IS ANGRY WITH FRANCE AND CHINA BECAUSE OF WHAT IS CALLED THEIR POSITIVE STANCE TOWARDS THE AFRC GOVERNMENT.

THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING DEPARTMENT OF LAND HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT MR. JOSEPH MUANA HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE OF CONGO TOWN AND BANANA WATER TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR LANDS ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED IN THOSE AREAS.

SPEAKING TO OUR REPORTER MR. MUANA SAID THE ARRANGEMENT WERE AGREED UPON AT A MEETING HELD FOR THE PEOPLE TO HAVE COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON HOW TO REGULARIZE THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE LANDS, HE REGRETTED THAT THE PEOPLE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE REGULAR PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING LAND AND THAT THE NORMAL PROCEDURE WAS FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO DEMOLISH STRUCTURES ILLEGALLY CONSTRUCTED ON STATE LAND.

HE HOWEVER OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE TO STRICTLY ADHERE TO LAID DOWN PROCEDURES TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND ABOVE ALL HUMANITARIAN FACTORS.

MR. MUANA SAID THEY HAVE THEREFORE REACHED AN AGREEMENT THAT THOSE AFFECTED SHOULD FORMALLY APPLY FOR A PLAN FOR THEIR STRUCTURES AND OBTAIN PERMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES.

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OLD GIRLS OF THE METHODIST GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL, THIS MORNING OBSERVE THEIR 118TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT THE WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, LAMIN SANKOH STREET IN FREETOWN. THE SERVICE WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN AS THE METHODIST CHURCH OBSERVED EDUCATION SUNDAY.

IN HER ADDRESS, THE ACTING PRINCIPAL OF THE METHODIST GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MRS. SPENCER WALTERS SPOKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MORAL AND

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SIERRA LEONE AND SAID THAT THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD BE GIVEN PRE-EMINENCE IN OUR LIVES.

SHE SAID AS CHRISTIANS, OUR RELIGIOUS AND MORAL VALUES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE BIBLE. MRS SPENCER WALTERS ADVISED PARENTS TO THEIR CHILDREN IN A GODLY MANNER, SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME DECENT AND USEFUL CITIZENS IN FUTURE. SHE URGED STUDENTS TO BE RESPECTFUL, OBEDIENT AND TO STOP BEING DECEITFUL.

THE FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS WERE READ BY RAYMOND WILSON, A CHORISTER AND A PUPIL OF THE ANNIE WALSH MEMORIAL SCHOOL RESPECTIVELY. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CEREMONY INCLUDE THE RENDITION OF ANTHEM, "ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY" BY THE CHOIR, INTERCESSORY PRAYERS WERE ALSO SAID FOR THE CHURCH, THE HOME MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, FOR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND FOR THE OLD GIRL'S OF M.G.H.S AND FOR UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

THE SERVICE WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY G.D.T. PATNELLI, WAS INTERSPERSED WITH CHORUSES FROM THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP AND THE SCHOOL HYMN OF THE METHODIST GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL.

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ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH GODERICH HAS CELEBRATED THEIR ANNUAL AFRICAN DAY SERVICE ON THE THEME, UNITY IN SERVICE.

ADDRESSING THE CONGREGATION THE REV. C.V.A. PEACOCK HEAD OF THE SIERRA LEONE METHODIST CHURCH, SAID AS THE THEME INDICATES, THERE IS DIRE NEED FOR UNITY AMONG CHURCH LEADERS AND WORKERS SO THAT THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL CAN PROSPER.

HE SPOKE ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF CHURCHES WHICH HAS HAD NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE CHURCH SINCE TIME IN MEMORIAL, CITING THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS.

REVEREND PEACOCK SAID CELEBRATING AFRICAN DAY IS A CHALLENGE FOR THE AFRICAN CULTURE WHICH MUST BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH.

IT IS ONLY WHEN WE GO BACK TO OUR ROOTS IN THE CHURCH, THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO WIN MORE CONVERTS THROUGH OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURES IN SERVING THE ALMIGHTY GOD, REVEREND PEACOCK SAID DILATING ON THE PRESENT CONSTRAINTS FACING THE NATION, THE PREACHER CALLED ON CHRISTIANS TO FORSTER THEIR EFFORTS IN SEARCH FOR TRUE AND LASTING PEACE SO THAT SANITY CAN ONCE AGAIN PREVAIL IN THE COUNTRY.

THE SERVICE WHICH WAS HELD UNDER THE GRAND CHIEF PATRONAGE OF THE ANGLICAN BISHOP OF FREETOWN J.O.P. LYNCH WAS CONDUCTED IN KRIO BY THE VICAR REVEREND MUTABA HARDING, WHILE THE LESSONS IN TEMNE, MENDE AND KRIO WERE READ BY REVEREND A.B.GBLA, MRS. JULIANA NYANDA AND MR. S.D. DURING RESPECTIVELY.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE COUNTRY, CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN WERE OFFERED IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**Transcripts**  
**2 February 1998**

**SLBS Radio, 2 February 1998, 20:00 GMT**

A six-man U.N. security team from its New York headquarters has met with the commander, 2nd Infantry Brigade, Colonel Thomas Mamadu, in Makeni to brief him on their mission to Sierra Leone. The head of the delegation, Graham Mebory, said the purpose of their visit is to assess the security situation in the region, with a view to ensuring the safe arrival of relief aid, as well as storage facilities. Responding, the brigade commander, Col. Mamadu, expressed appreciation to the delegation [supplying dropped words] for the courtesy call, noting that the region is safe [providing indistinct words and dropped punctuation]. He [replacing "and" with "he"] encouraged the team to feel free while on their assessment mission.

According to SLENA [Sierra Leone News Agency], the team, which was to go out today [providing indistinct words] is expected to travel to (Navrolga) on the same mission.

Before their departure, the team paid similar visits to Paramount Chief [supplying dropped word "Chief"] Bai-Sobora Katanga II and the Provincial Secretary, North, J.B. Quist.

**Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service**  
**News Releases**  
**6 February 1998**

THE CHAIRMAN AFRC AND HEAD OF STATE HAS SAID THE DISCORD BETWEEN TEJAN KABBAH AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY, THE RUF, OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AND EVEN HIS OWN SLPP MUST BE CRITICALLY REVIEWED IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THIS COUNTRY.

IN A BROADCAST STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION, LT. COL. JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA SAID THE NIGERIANS HAVE STARTED BOMBARDING THE CITY WHILE COORDINATED SPLINTER GROUPS OF KAMAJORS WITH FOREIGN MILITARY AID HAVE STARTED ATTACKING TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE SOUTH EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE NIGERIANS AT JUI HAVE AGAIN ARRESTED AND TORTURED MANY INNOCENT SIERRA LEONEANS, FOREIGN NATIONALS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TRAVELLING ON THE HIGHWAY.

THE HEAD OF STATE SAID THIS AND OTHER ARRESTS AND KILLINGS BY THE NIGERIANS ARE CLEARLY PROVOKING A WAR. LT COL. KOROMA EXPRESSED THE AFRC'S COMMITMENT TO THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN BUT EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS EVERY MORAL AND LEGAL RIGHT TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY IF AND WHEN PROVOKED.

HE RECALLED THAT OVER THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS THE NIGERIANS HAVE ALSO BOMBARDED SEVERAL CIVILIAN TARGETS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

THE HEAD OF STATE EXPRESSED THE FERVENT HOPE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL TAKE PROMPT ACTION TO FORCE TEJAN KABBAH TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN AND TO STOP THE CARNAGE BY NIGERIANS AND THE KAMAJORS.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN PARTICULAR TO CRITICALLY LOOK INTO THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION AND FORESTALL THE NIGERIANS AND KAMAJORS IN THEIR RAMPANT KILLINGS, ARREST AND DESTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY.

THE HEAD OF STATE COMMENDED THE GALLANT SOLDIERS OF THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY AND THE RUF FOR THEIR RESOLVE AND DETERMINATION TO DEFEND OUR MOTHERLAND AGAINST THE NIGERIAN AND KAMAJOR AGGRESSION.



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AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAS DIED WHILE THIRTY EIGHT OTHERS WITH MINOR AND SERIOUS INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING SPORADIC SHELLING OF THE WELLINGTON AREA THIS MORNING HAVE BEEN ADMITTED AT THE CONNAUGHT HOSPITAL, SOME IN A CRITICAL CONDITION.

ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE VICTIMS, ALFRED KARGBO WHO SUSTAINED WOUNDS ALL OVER HIS BODY, THE BOMBARDMENT WENT ON THROUGHOUT THURSDAY NIGHT AND HE THEREFORE DECIDED TO EVACUATE HIS FAMILY TO SAFETY WHEN IT COMMENCED THIS MORNING.

AS HE LEFT THE HOUSE WITH HIS WIFE MABEL KARGBO AFTER RETRIEVING SOME FOOD AND MONEY THEY HAD LEFT BEHIND, HE SAID, THERE WAS A LOUD EXPLOSION AS A BOMB DROPPED, CAUSING DEEP GASHES ON HIS WIFE'S NECK AND HEAD. A PIECE OF FRAGMENT WAS ALSO EXTRACTED FROM HER HIPS.

ANOTHER VICTIM, PHILIP TENNEFOR, SUSTAINED MULTIPLE FRAGMENT WOUNDS. HE TOLD THE SLBS THAT HE WAS MOVING HIS LANDLADY TO SAFETY WHEN A BOMB LANDED IN THEIR MIDST KILLING ONE OF THE GROUP IMMEDIATELY.

AT THE THEATRE, A TEAM OF DOCTORS AND NURSES PERFORMED SURGERY ON A PATIENT WITH DEEP CUTS ON HIS HEAD AND UPPER LEFT LIMB, WHILE SORIE KARGBO, ANOTHER VICTIM, WHO HAD BEEN TREATED EARLIER, LAID BLEEDING FROM WOUNDS ON BOTH LEGS.

AMONG THE OTHER VICTIMS WERE A CLASS THREE PUPIL ISATA KAMARA OF SAINT PETERS SCHOOL, WHOSE LEFT HAND WAS SEVERED BY FRAGMENTATION AND AMINATA JALLOH (ADDRESS UNKNOWN) WHO SUFFERED SEVERE FACIAL INJURIES, A PIERCED LEFT KNEE AND IS IN A COMA.

A SOLDIER WITH A DAMAGED LEG, A YOUNG MAN WITH A DAMAGED NASAL CAVITY AND AN OLD WOMAN, FATU KANU WHO SUSTAINED KNEE INJURIES WERE ALSO AMONG THE CASUALTIES.

SCORES OF ONLOOKERS STORMED THE HOSPITAL IN SEARCH OF RELATIVES AND FRIENDS, MOVING IN AND OUT OF THE WARDS, SYMPATHISING WITH THE VICTIMS. THE SPORADIC SHELLING OF THE WELLINGTON AREA HAS FORCED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO FLEE THE AREA IN ABSOLUTE DISARRAY, SOME OF THEM ON FOOT AND OTHERS SCROUNGING ONTO OVERLOADED VEHICLES.

A NUMBER OF CHILDREN WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR PARENTS AND COULD BE SEEN GAZING BLANKLY INTO THE BUSTLING CROWD.

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THE ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS APPEALED TO ALL PEACEFUL CITIZENS AT HOME AND ABROAD TO PREVAIL ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO COME OUT WITH A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING NIGERIA'S NAKED AGGRESSION TO AND ASK THE NIGERIAN-LED ECOMOG TO LEAVE SIERRA LEONE.

A RELEASE ISSUED TODAY STATES THAT THIS RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR OF NIGERIA TO ATTACK AND BOMBARD THE CITY SO AS TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN WELLINGTON, WATERLOO AND REGENT WILL BE MET WITH STIFF RESISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

IT FURTHER STATES THAT THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN HAS NOT BEEN FULLY HONOURED, ADDING THAT THE A.F.R.C.'s RESOLVE FOR PEACE AND LASTING DEMOCRACY REMAINS PARAMOUNT.

THE RELEASE ALSO CALLS ON THE KAMAJORS TO DESIST FROM COLLABORATING WITH THE NIGERIANS IN ORDER TO DESTABILISE, DESTROY AND KILL INNOCENT CIVILIANS. IT DESCRIBES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PIRATE RADIO STATION FM98.1 AS IMMORAL AND RECKLESS, CREATING PANIC AND FEAR IN THE CAPITAL THEREBY DESTROYING AND DESTABILISING PEACE CITIZENS.

THE ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, THE RELEASE ADDS IS APPEALING TO ALL PEACE LOVING CITIZENS TO GO ABOUT THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES AND ASSURED THEM THAT THE SAFETY, PROTECTION AND DEFENCE OF THIS COUNTRY WILL BE HANDLED EFFECTIVELY.

TEJAN KABBA, THE RELEASE ADDS, IS NOT SIERRA LEONE.

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THE CATHOLIC ARCH DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (ADDO) IN BO HAS COMPLETED A SUPPLY OF THIRTY EIGHT POINT ONE METRIC TONS OF BULGUR WHEAT TO OVER FOUR THOUSAND FAMILY DEPENDENTS IN BO AND ITS ENVIRONS AT THE PASTORAL AND SOCIAL CENTRE.

IN AN INTERVIEW, THE ARCH DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, ALBERT J. GOMBO TOLD THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE (GIS) THAT THE FOOD ARRIVED AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS NEEDED MOST.

MR. GOMBO LAMENTED THE DEPLORABLE STATE OF THE PEOPLE, ADDING THAT THE SOCIAL STATUS OF ABOUT EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF SIERRA LEONEANS HAD BEEN REDUCED TO THE LOWEST EBB.

HE COMMENDED THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) FOR DONATING THE FOOD WHICH HE SAID WILL HELP ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS.

ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS, JOE LAMBOI WHO LOOKED EMANCIPATED THANKED THE DONORS FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.