

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
31 October 1997

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR
EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE
1701 19TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

My Fellow Sierra Leonean:

I am pleased to announce that on Tuesday, October 28, 1997 the US Justice Department approved the long-awaited TPS - Temporary Protective Status - for all Sierra Leonean refugees in the US, with or without visas. TPS would allow our people to obtain US Social Security numbers, work, and to travel in and out of the United States.

This Embassy will shortly issued a detailed announcement explaining the TPS application process. The necessary TPS visa and work permit forms and other documentation will be available from the Embassy shortly. Please pass this good news to all Sierra Leoneans soonest. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John E. Leigh

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
22 December 1997

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE, Washington, DC 20009
Tel.: 202 939-9261 Fax: 202 483-1793

PRESS RELEASE

December 22, 1997

For immediate publication

1. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and his Ministers held a cabinet meeting at Lungi, Port Loko District, on Sunday, December 21, 1997. Vice President Joseph Demby and the Kamajor Commander Hon. Hinga Norman also attended. This was the first cabinet meeting in Sierra Leone soil since the May 25 coup. After the cabinet meeting, President Kabbah and Dr. James Jonah, Sierra Leone Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Minister in charge of Relations with International Organizations, addressed the nation on Radio 98.1.
2. The President thanked the international community for their sustained unanimous support for the return of constitutionality. He thanked the people of Sierra Leone for their heroic patience and the steadfastness of their opposition to the violent AFRC/RUF illegal regime of military coupmongers, looters, rapists, thieves, kidnappers, killers, congenital liars, amputators of human limbs, illicit diamond miners, common criminals and hooligans (hereinafter referred to as "coupligans").
3. The President stated that given the coupligans' record of deception and the recent statement of the nominal coupligan leader, Johnny Koroma ("Koroma"), that his gang of crooks will not depart come April 22, 1998 as per terms of the Conakry Peace Agreement of October 23, 1997; the international community no longer needs additional proof of the coupligans' intent to continue their catastrophic rule ad infinitum. Accordingly, the duly-elected government of Sierra Leone is ready to go into the offensive and remove them; and that the only reason behind the prolonged talks with coupligans was what the international community relied on.
4. The President reported that he is aware of the military airport at Magburaka, Tonkolili District that the coupligans have constructed and that two airplanes have been ferrying arms and ammunition to Sierra Leone on behalf of the coupligans to wage war against the people of Sierra Leone. President Kabbah promised that his Administration will not sit idly by and allow this brazen act to continue.

5. Public reaction to President Kabbah's broadcast and his presence in Sierra Leone soil was positive. People were jubilant and declared that the whole exercise was an excellent morale buster.

6. Meanwhile, this Embassy has learned that the Kamajors have seized control of several highways, including the Bo-Kenema; Matotoka-Kono; and Bo-Freetown Hwys; and have invited ECOMOG to deploy their troops wherever the Kamajors are in control.

7. Following President Kabbah's broadcast, coupligans' wives held a street demonstration demanding the release of Foray Sankoh and the departure of Nigerians from ECOMOG. Attempts to have unemployed youths to join them were unsuccessful.

8. The ECOWAS Committee of Five on Sierra Leone met in Abuja late last week and reached the following conclusions:

a. every country in the world should

expel from their territory junta members and their families forthwith;
take action soonest to render Magburaka Airport inoperable

b. Koroma and his gang of coupligans must vacate Sierra Leone by April 22, 1998 come what may.

c. ECOWAS countries should contribute more troops to ECOMOG. Ghana has already responded favorably.

9. At the request of this Embassy, a notorious coupligan appointee was detained at Kennedy International Airport in New York on Saturday afternoon, December 19 upon his arrival on an Air Afrique Airline flight from Conakry, Guinea.

10. The detained appointee--one Doctor Philip Sesay, had been the Head of Chancery at this Embassy under Dr. Thomas Kargbo before his re-posting to the Foreign Ministry in Freetown at Dr. Kargbo's request. Shortly after the coup, Sesay, a Binkolo Limba like Koroma, who allegedly received a four-year college education in Russia in the seventies, lobbied the AFRC for, and was appointed to the position of, State Chief of Protocol, State House, Freetown, replacing Mr. Abdul Rahman Wurie. Sesay is to be deported via Sabena or Air Afrique to Sierra Leone.

11. Sesay had been observed frequently accompanying the nominal coupligan leader, Koroma, to Limba Church in Freetown. Colleagues at the Foreign Ministry in Freetown, who asked to remain anonymous, described Sesay as a power-drunk and a Limba tribalist. Sesay's Russian-born wife had approached Ambassador Leigh on a number of occasions to have Sesay re-posted to this Embassy as Head of Chancery. Ambassador Leigh, concerned about rumors of improper activities by civil servants assigned to the Embassy, refused.

12. Mr. Gustavus T.N. Williams, Sesay's successor here as Head of Chancery, and who purported to be the coupligans' Charge d' Affaires, finally vacated government embassy

quarters at Bethesda, MD under an Eviction Order from the Maryland District Court in Rockville, Montgomery County, on December 2. The residence was found to be in shambles by Williams' successor, Mr. Hassan Conteh. Volunteers are invited to help repair the building.

13. On August 21, 1997 the Foreign Minister, Mrs. Shirley Gbujama, transferred Williams to Freetown so he could join his coupligan bosses there after he passed himself off as a Sierra Leone Charge d'Affaires, purportedly replacing Ambassador Leigh. Williams was given until September 30 to vacate the premises but refused, claiming that the residence is owned by the coupligans.

14. This Embassy is opposing Williams' application for asylum and/or TPS protection on account of his activities here, including (i) furnishing the State Department and other governmental agencies with statements characterizing illegal immigrants as Sierra Leone diplomats employed here for the purpose of obtaining diplomatic visas illegally; and (ii) working on behalf of the coupligans and against the duly-elected government.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
31 December 1997

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE, Washington, DC 20009
Tel.: 202 939-9261 Fax: 202 483-1793

PRESS RELEASE

December 31, 1997

For immediate publication

1. A recent dis-information campaign, via the internet and wire services, by the Binkolo Limbale violent AFRC/RUF illegal regime of military coupmongers, looters, rapists, thieves, kidnapers, killers, congenital liars, pathological pedophiles; amputators of human limbs, illicit diamond miners, common criminals; drug pushers; illicit recruiters of child-soldiers, and hooligans (hereinafter referred to as “coupligans”), backfired yesterday when the Focus on Africa program on BBC unwittingly exposed the truth.
2. On Monday, December 29, 1997, the coupligans had posted on the internet under the SLBS name, and in a wire service, Comtex, operating from the Monrovia, the false news that 100 Kamajors were surrounded and captured by the RUF in Kailahun. The bogus news report then went on to assert that a team of foreign journalists and an SLBS-TV crew were flown to Kailahun Town, then driven to the so-called RUF strong-hold of Beudu to interview the captured Kamajors. Thereafter, the journalists were supposedly taken from Beudu and driven to near-by Kangama to interview Messrs. Faiya Musa, Philip Palmer and Ibrahim Deen-Jalloh, former RUF officers and now their prisoners, allegedly for making a coup against Foday Sankoh, the devil incarnate.
3. Yesterday, at 4PM, Focus on Africa reported from Monrovia that (i) 92 RUF soldiers had surrendered to Kamajor Forces in Kailahun District and that (ii) the Kamajors turned these POWs to ECOMOG which took them to their base in Liberia, (iii) from whence BBC interviewed them. (iv) Focus on Africa reported that the surrendered RUF POWs declared that they are no longer going to fight for the coupligans and that what they really want is a return to the Abidjan Peace Accords of November 1996.
4. The coupligans have also circulated bogus news reports that an ECOMOG Alpha jet has been shot down—when and where unsaid—and that General Victor Malu has been transferred to Nigeria. The record is clear that no ECOMOG airplane of any type has been shot down. Further, General Malu is still based in Monrovia and still in charge of the Sierra Leone operation. He is presently working hard to transfer his headquarters to Freetown.

5. ECOMOG has smashed the coupligans' airport outside Magburaka, Tonkolili District, leaving the runway looking like Swiss cheese. In the process, several coupligans were blown to pieces. However, two shipments of weapons managed to be delivered to the coupligans.

6. Some of the weapons delivered via the airport at Magburaka before ECOMOG shredded the runway were found to be old, rusty and unserviceable. This is said to be the reason for Steve Bio's arrest and detention: a crook said to be defrauding other crooks.

7. Kamajors have cleared the RUF from Tiama, Njala, Moyamba and Moyamba by Monday, December 29. The Kamajors are now heading for Mile 91, near Yonibana, to confront the coupligans in Camp Charlie. We are told that the Camp Charlie coupligans have said that they will fight only if their leader, coupligan Johnny Koroma, leads them in battle.

8. Three trucks transporting coupligans to Kono via Kabala were attacked and burnt by Tamaboros late last week. The coupligans were attempting to bypass the Kono-Matotoka Road under Kamajor control and thought Kabala was safe for their corruption and beastly violence. The Tamaboros and Kamajors are working together to block all routes the coupligans might use to escape, once ECOMOG begins its flushing campaign.

9. The coupligan Chief of State Protocol, one Philip Sesay, a Binkolo Limba formerly of this Embassy, continues to be locked-u in US Immigration jail in New York following his application for asylum in the USA. Sesay makes two false claims to back his asylum request. First, that he was forced at gun point to work for Koroma and second, that he is here to defect.

10. This Embassy has submitted an Affidavit by an eye-witness who reported that Sesay aggressively lobbied for the position and that he was here for a two-week Christmas visit with his family in Maryland and for shopping; and that he took formal leave of Koroma before departing with a \$10,000 cash gift and Bon Voyage wishes from coupligan Koroma. Further, as an ambitious Limba serving in a stupid Limba regime, Sesay has no legitimate basis to fear for his safety as he is related by blood and tribal affinity to all the leading coupligans. Sesay's plan was to return home early in the New Year to lobby for an ambassadorship.

11. This Embassy has filed a claim, on behalf of the duly-elected government, for the \$9,000 found in Sesay's pockets, plus his passport, and all official documents and other papers in his possession when he was apprehended at Kennedy International Airport. Sesay's three-year, US multiple entry visa has been revoked at the request of the State Dept.

12. Paola Bangura, Jas Conteh and William Bangura are on their way to Taipeh, Taiwan to lobby for recognition of the coupligans' regime of thieves and rapists, etc.

13. Recently, the coupligans confiscated two large pieces of uncut diamonds from the owners in Tongoh Field, One was a 400 carat stone, the other was 211 carat.

14. A bag of rice now sells for Le 58,000; a pint of palm oil for Le 1,000. The Dollar-Leone conversion rate is now \$1.00 to Le 2,000.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
12 January 1998

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE, Washington, DC 20009
Tel.: 202 939-9261 Fax: 202 483-1793
PRESS RELEASE

January 12, 1998
For immediate publication

1. The attention of the Embassy has been directed by internet users to a dirty-tricks' campaign of misinformation whereby this Embassy is made to look as if it is anti-Limba.
2. Supporters of the violent AFRC/RUF illegal regime of military coupmongers, looters, rapists, thieves, kidnappers, killers, congenital liars, pathological pedophiles; amputators of human limbs, illicit diamond miners, common criminals; drug pushers; illicit recruiters of child-soldiers, drunkards vehicle snatches, home invaders and hooligans (hereinafter collectively referred to as "coupligans"), have been manufacturing adjectives to paint this Embassy as a place opposed to the entire Limba tribe. This is rubbish.
3. The fact that the principal coupmongers - The Binkolo military Koromas, the top military brass, ex-Prez Joseph Momoh and Paolo & William Bangura of the foreign ministry are Limbas does not mean that all Limbas are coupligans. In fact, this Embassy is fully aware that many, many Limbas are opposed to - and are fighting - the coupligans.
4. This Embassy supports law and order, justice, and the control of government through legitimate electoral processes, regardless of ethnicity. This Embassy is anti-coup, anti-lawlessness and anti-theft of national sovereignty by soldiers, sobels, and/or rebels, etc., regardless of ethnicity.
5. This Embassy stands for the principle that public positions should be based on merit, and opposes the coupligan tactic of grabbing public offices and their utter disrespect for military offices as evidenced by their widespread practice whereby a coupligan Colonel is subordinate to a coupligan sergeant or even soldiers of lower ranks; or where a sub-lieutenant is promoted to Brigadier or even field Marshall within three or four years.
6. This Embassy realizes that members of the various Sierra Leone ethnic groups are on both sides of a conflict that is between those who stand for stability and development through a democratic system of government; and those rascals who believe that guns are the proper instruments with which to gain power whenever it is opportune to do so - or that the way to get their point across is to kill or maim opponents and/or rape females.

7. Accordingly, this Embassy invites internet users to check with this Embassy (202 939-9261) whenever they come across purported Embassy press releases that contravene the above statement of principles.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
13 January 1998

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE, Washington, DC 20009

Tel.: 202 939-9261 Fax: 202 483-1793

PRESS RELEASE

January 13, 1998

For immediate publication

1. Alimamy Paolo Bangura, the coupligan foreign minister, and his entourage (William Bangura, "Col." Jas Conteh & Victor Brandon) have been expelled by Cote d'Ivoire and are now resident in Burkina Faso. their traveling expenses of \$25,000 was paid to William Bangura of the foreign ministry in old Le 500 notes. Bangura put the notes in a truck-load of cartons to Sackville Street, Freetown where he converted the Leones to dollars but he said he received only \$17,000 in the exchange. The coupligans are said to be on their way to Taiwan to negotiate diplomatic recognition for the junta.

2. A bag of rice now sells for Le 60,000; a pint of palm oil for Le 1,200. the Dollar-Leone conversion rate remains at \$1.00 to Le 2,000.

3. Attempts to reopen schools collapsed last Friday when the coupligans commenced shooting at ECOMOG's Jets. Moreover, those teachers who reached their school buildings before the shootings soon discovered that furniture, blackboards, plumbing materials, even roofs, etc. have been looted.

4. Corporal Gborie, the illiterate soldier who led the gang of coupligans that seized SLBS and forcibly opened the Pademba Road prison on May 25, 1997 and thereafter invited Johnny Koroma to chair the AFRC - has been arrested, jailed and demoted to Lance Corporal for assaulting Koroma's residence, killing at least two people. Gborie allegedly wanted Koroma killed because of his dismissal from the coupligans' junta council upon allegations that he led a gang of 12 criminals last week, at the dead of night, to break into and loot the Iranian Embassy, the sole remaining functioning Embassy in Freetown. Rugs, furniture, office equipment, air conditioners, plates, pots, pans, cutlery and stationary, etc. were looted by the Gborie gang of thieves.

5. The coupligans operate as follows: every big shot is a "commander" with his own private gang of at least 12 armed men. this armed crew loots, rapes, kills and/or arrests whosoever offends them. a crew reports to no one and is punished only if they attack other commanders. Recently, the coupligan council has begun to punish a few looters.

6. Eldred Collins, the coupligans' Trade Secretary, was wounded in the Gborie attack on the Koroma residence and is presently hospitalized in Guinea as there are no suitable medical facilities in Freetown.

7. Isa Sesay, a drunkard coupligan colonel, was also implicated in the looting attack on the Iranian Embassy. As punishment, he is to forfeit three months pay. Sesay was the coupligan who first reported the Stephen Bio-Massaquoi coup attempt.

8. Also last week, the coupligans in Bo staged a phony skirmish against imaginary kamajors as a pretext to loot Lebanese shops, NGO warehouses and homes of people they deemed well-to-do. Bo residents were in a state of terror for several hours during the looting spree. There were in fact no Kamajors within the city limits at the relevant time; and the coupligan looting was typical of looting schemes that earned soldiers the opprobrium "sobels".

9. The United Nations Representative to Sierra Leone, Mr. Francis Okello, is seeking to relocate from Guinea to Sierra Leone to be based with ECOMOG forces at Lungi in readiness for the deployment of UN Peace Keepers in Sierra Leone. The coupligans informed Mr. Okello on Friday, January 9, that they will meet the April 22 quite deadline, but everybody knows that this pledge is worthless and a complete deceit.

10. The ECOMOG forces will shortly be relocating from Liberia to Sierra Leone by road. Kamajor forces have already secured the Mano River Bridge to ensure a smooth passage. Upon ECOMOG's entry into Sierra Leone, compulsory disarmament and deployment will automatically commence.

12. ECOMOG seized a consignment of cacao (i.e. raw cocoa), valued at \$683,000, at Jui recently. Taken into custody were two Lebanese and their convoy of trucks.

13. Sam Bockarie, the top RUF coupligan in the junta, is holed up in Makeni as of last night because his attempt to penetrate the Kamajor blockade of Kono/Kenema failed at Makali, Tonkolili District. He may now either be waiting for reinforcements from Freetown, or is recruiting and training gullible local people to send to their certain deaths.

14. Bockarie's new attempt to reach Kono is in reaction to the coupligans' failure to reach Kono via Kabala because the Tamaboros routed them there three weeks ago.

15. The Tamaboros and the Kamajors have sealed Kono, Kenema and Pujehun Districts, preventing the coupligans from either entering or leaving the area. Diamond production has consequently collapsed, drying up the coupligans' coffers.

16. Last Friday's Sabena flight from Brussels to Banjul and Conakry was apparently forced to fly over Lungi Airport twice before landing in Conakry. The flight was full, packed with tourists and at least 150 strange-looking males, black and white. Prior to landing, a fist-fight broke out in the rear cabin. Upon landing at Conakry, the plane was surrounded by Guinean troops who arrested three males.

17. Maada Bio, the junior assistant lieutenant who greedily promoted himself to Brigadier-General within three years of the NPRC coup, was seen in Banjul on Friday last week. This man's formal education ended at HSC (junior college) level.

18. Reuters has reported that Guinea will be withdrawing its troops from ECOMOG at the end of February for two reasons: (i) costs and (ii) preparation for elections which must be held by December 1998. Guinea has only 100 troops with ECOMOG in Sierra Leone.

19. The coupligan report that foreign journalists were to interview Messrs. Fayia Musa, Philip Palmer and Ibrahim Deen-Jalloh in the RUF's so-called stronghold in Kailahun, is complete rubbish as these men are long dead.

** Ambassador John Leigh will answer all queries arising from this press release.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Letter
14 January 1998

Office of the Ambassador
of the Republic of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

January 14, 1998

Mr. Peter Andersen
[Address]

Dear Mr. Andersen:

I write to confirm the points I made during our telephone conversation yesterday in connection with this Embassy's Press Release dated December 31, 1997.

First, I confirm that your internet posting of our said Press Release is accurate.

Second, I confirm that I stand fully behind the said Press Release especially where our Press Release specifically states that:

(i) The leaders of the May 25, 1997 coup are Binkolo-Limbas

It is a matter of public record that the following native-born Binkolo-Limbas constitute the military core of the top echelon of the beastly, AFRC/RUF illegal junta of savage thugs and thieves: Johnny Paul Koroma, chairman; Samuel F. Y. Koroma, chief of defence staff; Hassan Conteh, chief of Army Staff; A. M. Koroma, SOS-North; ex-President Joe Momoh, adviser and presidential hopeful; etc. These Binkolo savages gained control of the Sierra Leone Army under Presidents Stevens and Momoh but more so under Momoh.

(ii) The Binkolo-Limba-led regime is stupid

The stupidity of the beastly regime of Binkolo-Limba military thugs and thieves is manifest in their: (i) surprise at public reaction to their unnecessary coup; (ii) reliance on brutality to impose their will on an unwilling public; (iii) persistent tricks of deceit and stonewalling to deceive themselves into believing that they could out-smart the whole world and retain their stolen power and loot. (iv) Or that Binkolo-Limba military savages can monopolize leadership functions in Sierra Leone or possess the ability to govern a civilized people. Above all, (v) the

stupidity of the Binkolo-Limba military savages is manifested in their act of inviting RUF rebels to govern Sierra Leone as the best way of bringing peace to our country.

The rest of the world knows that there is no peace in Sierra Leone and that the RUF is a group not interested in peace. Instead, RUF's interests lay in murders, amputations, mayhem and carnage for the purpose of pillage - as witnessed throughout Sierra Leone since 1991 to date.

Third, the said Press Release never called all Limbas "stupid", nor characterized all Limbas as "coupligans", etc. as claimed by rogue elements in the internet. Our reference to "stupidity" is limited to the AFRC/RUF regime of dumb savages. Our reference to "Limbas" is limited to those native-born Binkolo-Limba military thugs who dominate the leadership of the AFRC/RUF regime of hard-drinking thugs, dumb savages, thieves and congenital liars.

I wish to take this opportunity to let the world know that this Embassy is aware that the vast majority of Limbas oppose the Binkolo-coupligan clique. We know that thousands of Limbas are suffering in Guinea and elsewhere just as their fellow Sierra Leoneans, and are just as afraid of the Binkolo military savages as everybody else. Further, many, many educated Limbas, including Binkolo Limbas, are fighting hard to help restore the constitutional order in Sierra Leone. As I write, there are Limbas with military training who are helping the Kamajors, beyond and above the call of duty, to terminate the coupligan regime of beastly savages and thieves. Personally, I know of one highly educated Limba family that came to my aid, undercover, in ridding this Embassy of corruption. Lastly, beastly rogue elements from other ethnic groups, such as Mendes, Temnes, Fulas, Konos and Creoles are also coupligans.

None of this, however, negates the plain truth that Binkolo Limba military types - led by the Koromas, Hassan Conteh and Joe Momoh - are leaders of a very stupid military regime of beastly savages. Or that a plethora of literate Limbas - such as Paolo Bangura, Philip Sesay, Hamid Kamara, Secretary to coupligan chairman; M.T. Bangura, Perm. Sec. Agriculture; SAS Sankoh, Perm. Sec. Youth & Sports; Mansou Samura; Osman Yansanneh, Assistant to chairman; Kaysin Kallay, Secretary, Bank of Sierra Leone; Christian Kargbo, Governor, Bank of Sierra Leone, etc., etc. - have not been favored with civil positions beyond their level of competence because of tribal affinity to the Binkolo Limba military coupligan group of beastly savages/thieves.

In sum, the vast majority of Limba people are good, solid citizens and their loyalty and intelligence will not be soiled by the beastly, stupid, greedy few. Rogue interneters will not be allowed to mislead anyone as to where this Embassy stands on any issue whatsoever.

Very truly yours,

John E. Leigh
Ambassador of the duly elected government of Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
16 January 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
January 16, 1998

For immediate publication

1. The attention of this Embassy has been directed to the fact that some of our people may be confused into believing that recent, hard-hitting statements by this Embassy are directed against a particular ethnic group. This misconception is wholly without any factual basis.
2. Our statements specifically put the onus for the coup and its heinous consequences on only a handful of individuals, not on a whole ethnic group or town. The fact that the identified office holders appear to have identical ethnic backgrounds, is not this Embassy's invention at all.
3. Every allegation made against this specific handful of men represents the incontestable, unassailable, insurmountable, undeniable truth. If there is any proof to the contrary, this Embassy stands to be corrected, with apologies.
4. Even so, a few of our citizens appear to believe that our press releases, though devastating to the coupligans, may create an erroneous impression that this Embassy - and Ambassador Leigh in particular - are ethnocentric, specifically anti-Limba. This is completely untrue.
5. If it is true, however, that a perception of anti-Limba bias is shared by some Sierra Leoneans, then this would not be the first time Ambassador Leigh is being unjustly suspected of ethnocentrism. Many months ago, when Ambassador Leigh was determined to wipe out the long-running (over 20 years) corruption, drinking and indolence in this Embassy, he was viciously accused of being anti-Creole by the perpetrators of vice he sought to reform, and their cronies. Those accusations never stopped this Embassy from pressing ahead and cleaning up itself.
6. Even so, this Embassy realizes that some loyal citizens of a particular ethnic group may be worried about possible ethnic bias against them, either through an inadvertent misconception and/or misinterpretation of our references to ethnicity or hometown or through rumors invented by coupligan supporters. Ambassador Leigh, therefore, offers his and the Embassy's unreserved apologies to all such persons for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused them.

7. We assure all such persons that the policy of the duly-elected government of Sierra Leone makes no room for ethnic biases of any kind. Our Embassies and Ambassadors, including Ambassador Leigh, are under strict instructions from President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to treat all Sierra Leoneans equally, with respect, without bias and in a national and non-ethnocentric manner.

8. Please be advised, therefore, that references to any particular ethnic group or town in our releases had nothing to do with ethnocentrism - but a mere reporting of the true facts. All such references were directly targeted at only the handful of persons specifically named therein and not to an entire ethnic group. We deliberately identified the couppligans by background because we believe that the time has finally arrived for the public to understand the role played by ethnic affinity, ethnic favoritism, social leniency, etc., if any, so we may insure that after the war in won, history will never be repeated.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
27 January 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
January 27, 1998

For immediate publication

1. BBC reported yesterday that 800 armed coupligans (400 RUF, 280 AFRC soldiers and 120 police officers) surrendered to ECOMOG forces in Jui yesterday morning. Once again, RUF spokesman in Abidjan falsely denied facts negative to their interests.
2. What do the initials R.U.F. stand for? Answer: Rough, Useless Foolloumunckous.
3. Fool-lou-munc-kous are constantly under the influence of drink and drugs. Foolloumunckous have no respect for females and are ready to gang-rape at the slightest opportunity. They are the fools always sent in front of the shooting range by the AFRC to confront ECOMOG and/or our Civil Defence Forces ("CDF") after been convinced that they are bullet-proof. Consequently, foolloumunckous have repeatedly sustained heavy casualties since they first became sacrificial lambs for the coupligans on or about July 7-11, 1997 because foolloumunckous believe anything their suppliers of drugs tell them and, accordingly, act foolishly.
4. Foolloumunckous do not appear to understand the difference between the Disarmament Process and the Peace Process under the Conakry Peace Plan. Their bosses know, however, that the Disarmament Process must first be accomplished before Foday Sankoh is freed to participate in the Peace Process. No disarmament, no Sankoh participation in the Peace Process.
5. Yesterday's reported surrender of 800 coupligans, however, shows that some in the RUF are beginning to wise up. There were more surrenders of AFRC/RUF coupligans today at Jui but details are not yet known.
6. The Parliament of Sierra Leone will meet in Sierra Leone soil shortly to enact transition arrangements for the restoration of the Constitution of Sierra Leone. Members of the cabinet are already in Lungi.
7. A.K. Sesay, the callous liar-secretary-general of the violent AFRC/RUF illegal regime of military coup-mongers, jail-breakers, looters, rapists, thieves, kidnapers, killers, congenital liars, pathological pedophiles; amputators of human limbs, illicit gold-diamond miners,

common criminals; drug pushers; illicit recruiters of child-soldiers, drunkards, vehicle snatchers, produce smugglers; home invaders and hooligans (hereinafter collectively referred to as “coupligans”), is canvassing extensively in the Northern Province for support for the junta by inventing lies to explain food shortages.

8. Sesay, a straight-faced liar, has been telling Northerners that there is no food in Sierra Leone today because President Kabbah is constantly sending large delegations from the Republic of Guinea to buy up all Sierra Leone food supplies and carry them to Mende and Krio people who have ran away to Guinea. Therefore, Northerners should never allow President Kabbah to return to Sierra Leone. Sesay has spoken in Batkanu, Makeni, Binkolo and Kabala.

9. Upon the restoration of our Constitution, a massive effort should be made to wizen up our people so that no one would ever again attempt such idiotic propaganda.

10. The price of a 50 lb. bag of rice is now Le 750,000, up from Le 15,000 at coup time. A pint of palm oil costs Le 1,200 up from Le 200; nut oil sells for Le 800 up from Le 150. The Leone is now Le 2,250 to the US dollar. Good job, military thugs!

11. The CDF continue to make good progress in restoring our Constitution. Bo and Kenema are completely surrounded, with all roads linking those two towns from the rest of the country cut-off. The CDF battalion that took Rotifunk and Bradford, has now taken Songo. The overall commanding officer of the CDF, Mohammed Sineh Dumbuya, who hails from Tonko Limba Chiefdom, Northern Province, is confident that the Freetown Peninsular will be cut-off soon from the main land, trapping the coupligans.

12. Mr. Dumbuya stated that the coupligans who were defeated in Tongorfield last week were mostly from the Teckor Barracks in Makeni and the high casualties the coupligans suffered in Tongor may have demoralized many Northern AFRC/RUF soldiers. Towns like Magburaka, Makeni, Mabonto, Yonibana, Port Loko, Kumrabria and Kambia are in a state of mourning as the extent of the Tongorfield catastrophe becomes known.

13. The coupligan Mayor of Freetown, Dr. Wiltshire Johnson, was booed at a Freetown Mosque on Friday afternoon, January 16, when he disrespectfully rushed and mumbled the words of an Islamic prayer. Later, the entire congregation worked out on him when he started praising the “good” works of the coup junta. Johnson should know that our people are not stupid. It is the regime that is stupid.

14. Cpl. Gborie, the illiterate soldier who led the gangs of coupligans that seized SLBS and forcibly opened the Pademba Road prison on May 25, 1997 and thereafter invited Johnny Koroma to chair the AFRC - is said to be ill in jail. No further details are available.

15. During his Maihyung Day speech in Freetown, the coupligan chairman, Johnny boy Koroma, promised to enroll all RUF soldiers into the “Ssshearah eh err...Sshearah Loan army” to make up for the “loss” of their benefits under the Abidjan Peace Accord.” The truth is that the Abidjan Peace Accord is still in place and its implementation is what the Peace Process is all about. Under the Conakry Peace Plan, Foday Sankoh is to be released to take part in

implementing the Abidjan Peace Accord. Foday Sankoh has no role in the Disarmament Process.

16. Radio 98.1 has gone short-wave with the help of the British Government. 98.1 can now be heard in Koindu, Kailahun; Shebro Island; and beyond Musaia, Koinadugu District. This development is devastating to the coupligans because the ideal condition for them is complete monopoly to control the airwaves so they could lie, unopposed.

17. This Embassy has learned that mail from Sierra Leone is being trucked to Conakry, Guinea by the coupligans and then posted from there to the rest of the World. This is another effort to defeat an internationally imposed sanction on the illegal military junta. We are in the process of ending this violation.

18. A military convoy was ambushed by CDF on the Freetown-Bo Road this morning killing 47 coupligans and three civilians. Ten coupligans were captured by CDF ten days or so ago around Christ The King's College compound in Bo.

19. A freighter attempting to breach the UN-ECOWAS trade embargo was fired at by ECOMOG jets yesterday and forced to retreat from Sierra Leone waters.

20. BBC today broadcast a warning issued by the International Red Cross that the consignment of cornmeal recently stolen by looting-coupligans from a Red Cross warehouse in Sierra Leone was contaminated and those eating it may suffer from diarrhea.

21. A photograph of an ugly, heavy-faced Koroma, with drooping eyes, appeared in yesterday's Washington Post. This photo damages Koroma's already poor image because he looks like a drug addict and con man.

22. Burkina Faso has expelled coupligans Paolo Bangura, William Bangura and JAS Conteh. These rogues may have headed for Libya. Apparently, Francophone support for the coupligans has evaporated following France's sudden support for United Nations actions in Sierra Leone.

23. MORE EVIDENCE OF COUPLIGAN STUPIDITY: (i) Yesterday, Koroma offered amnesty to the Kamajors if the Kamajors would lay down their arms and join the AFRC/RUF to share the wealth of "Sshearah Loan." (ii) Earlier this month, Koroma proposed to UN Rep. Francis Okello that the coupligans be put in charge of "reorganizing and restructuring the "Sshearah Loan" conseshushunnal harmy". This type of coupligan stupidity is never-ending.

24. An intelligent illegal regime would have quickly availed its members of the benefits provided them under the Conakry Peace Plan and spare the nation unnecessary agony.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
3 February 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
February 3, 1998

For immediate publication

1. ARRESTED by ECOMOG? SAJ Musa, the NPRC mass-murder & chief coup SOS, and A.I. Sesay, the lying-secretary-general of the violent AFRC/RUF illegal regime of military coup-mongers, jail-breakers, throat-cutters, beheaders, thugs, looters, rapists, thieves, kidnapers, killers, congenital liars, pathological pedophiles; amputators of human limbs, illicit gold-diamond miners, common criminals; drug dealers; illicit recruiters of child-soldiers, drunkards, vehicle snatchers, produce smugglers; home invaders, beastly savages and hooligans (hereinafter collectively referred to as "coupligans"), have mysteriously disappeared. Rumors have it that they were arrested by ECOMOG at Jui while traveling incognito, dressed as traders, with a large cache of foreign currencies in 27 cartons, together with a large parcel of diamonds and several packets of gold.
2. There is also speculation by others that the cache of foreign currencies, gold and diamonds were in the possession of Musa and Sesay loyalists who were arrested in Jui by ECOMOG on Friday. This clique was said to be attempting to defraud the AFRC and so the AFRC arrested Musa and Sesay after the ECOMOG arrest exposed their fraud. Also arrested by ECOMOG is William Bangura, who was recently expelled by Burkina Faso.
3. Three of those arrested by ECOMOG are alphas from Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger invited by the coupligans to perform voodoo sahrah for ECOMOG's defeat.
4. There was panic at the State House today when a 100-foot tree in Victoria Park fell into Rockel Street next to State House. The ensuing loud, crashing noise sent coupligans there running out of the building, throwing away their uniforms and running into the street topless, thinking that ECOMOG has arrived. The city remains tense.
5. The split between the AFRC and the RUF widened yesterday with shooting in Freetown between the two sets of coupligans lasting over two hours.

6. Sam Bockari has refused repeated AFRC requests to return to Freetown from the provinces. He is believed to be in Dambara, Bo District trying to find a new passage to Kono to relieve the RUF garrison there.

7. Wanza, the Lebanese merchant who sought to sell of \$50,000 used boat for \$3,000,000 to the NPRC after superficial repairs, and whose request for payment to President Kabbah was refused, has not been paid, Le 10 billion, by the coupligans.

8. Civil Defence Forces continue to push for the complete control of all diamond mining areas. A four-prong attack in under way from the direction of Tongor, Payima, Gandorhun and Njaiama Nimikoroh. The CDF is now within seven miles of Koidu. About 7,000 civilians fled the area into Guinea over the weekend.

9. Dock workers are on strike because of salary arrears. The coupligans have notified these workers that their salaries have been suspended until further notice.

10. The coupligans have appointed so-called Peace Advisers to pursue a peaceful solution of the coup with ECOMOG. The three named are Il members of the Joseph Momoh clique of the unopposed, APC one-party. The new Peace Advisers are: Alhaji Musa Kabia, Patrick Swarray and “Field Marshall” Sankoh—all long-term crooks.

11. The coupligans have also appointed a so-called Accountability & Transparency Committee to monitory the regime’s activities. The usual crooks were appointed.

12. Osman Yansanneh, a blood relative-tribesman of former Prez Joseph Momoh, and the civil servant that the NPRC discovered in 1992 had Le 225 million in his checking account, is now the most powerful civilian official in Sierra Leone as Snr. PermSec. Yansanneh was awarded one of those unopposed Russian scholarships given to the APC one-party faithfuls during the seventies.

13. 80% of all operating vehicles in urban areas are taxis. Private owners of vehicles either lack gasoline or are avoiding coupligan vehicle snatchers.

14. The new slang for traveling long distances by foot out of necessity is “abu black” like: “I’ll be arriving by abu black”. Mr. Abu Black is the new Temne Tribal Headman in Freetown, appointed by the coupligans in succession to the legitimate headman who was unceremoniously deposed for not supporting the coup. Upon his appointment, Abu Black wanted to demonstrate his gratitude to the coupligans for the appointment by giving a speech. In his speech, Black boasted that because there is a grave scarcity of gasoline in Sierra Leone, he is ready to walk from Freetown to Lunsar without complaining. If he can do it, why not you? So ‘abu black’ is now the usual method of transportation.

15. The commonest Leone note circulating in Freetown today is the Le 100 note.

16. Rioting erupted in Makeni yesterday upon a coupligan announcement increasing the market fees paid by petty traders. The rioting continued for several hours and ended only when the fee increase was rescinded.

17. Tombo, the tiny Creole-Sherbro fishing village on the far South-eastern Peninsular between Kent and Russell, is now a boom port town on the Yawri Bay facing Shengay and Bonthe. Because of unsafe roads due to military action and because of the high price of rice and other produce in Freetown, trade is now by sea, with hundreds of produce-laden boats landing at Tombo, creating bustling open markets where Freetownians shop.

18. People say everyday in Sierra Leone seems like Sunday because of idleness, with schools, offices and businesses closed. Our people do not want this coup of savages.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
10 February 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
February 10, 1998

For immediate publication

1. The AFRC/RUF junta is on the verge of being ousted by Civil Defence Forces.
2. At 12.05 PM today, ECOMOG deployed at Fourah Bay College campus after the CDF cleared the campus of coupligans (i.e. combined coupists, looters, hooligans, etc.)
3. RUF Col. Mingo, the Liberian-born commander of Ulimo mercenaries in Freetown, and his household of coupligans have this morning fled the residence of Dr. Alusine Fofana, former NPRC Foreign Minister, which Mingo had illegally occupied.
4. Soldiers guarding the residence of Amara Bangali, the odious corrupt coupligan finance minister, switched to white civilian clothes at approximately 3 PM GMT.
5. The junta coup council led by Johnny Koroma, Chairman; Samuel Y. Koroma, coup Chief of Defence Staff, Hassan Conteh, coup Chief of Army Staff; and A.M. Koroma, SOS-North - and controlled by former President Joseph Momoh, fled on Saturday to Tokeh Village, a small fishing village on the Western Area Peninsular but returned to Freetown yesterday for a coup meeting.
6. Our sources have reported that RUF thugs guarding coupligan chairman Koroma have forced him to go to the front at Hill Station to fight the CDF based at the OAU Village. At approximately 4 PM GMT, Koroma was seen heading towards Hill Station.
7. The present round of fighting began on the wee hours of Thursday morning, February 5, when coup forces attacked the ECOMOG camps at Jui and Allen Town. This unprovoked attack may have been an unsuccessful attempt to retrieve (i) 27 cartons of foreign currencies, (ii) a large parcel of diamonds and (iii) several packets of gold which junta officials, dressed incognito in Muslim clerical attire, were attempting to smuggle but which ECOMOG confiscated on Friday, January 30 at a Jui roadblock under authority of UN-ECOWAS sanctions. Junta forces also simultaneously attacked a CDF contingent based between Waterloo and Benguema. The CDF retaliated by advancing into the city.

8. As of 9 PM Sunday evening, the combined CDF have overrun Leicester and Regent and have occupied the OAU Village near Hill Station. Another CDF contingent headed towards Fourah Bay College campus. Earlier in the weekend, Waterloo, Benguema and Tumbo fell to the CDF. On the Rokel River side, ECOMOG is at Grass Field, near the Methodist Boys High School campus at Kissy MessMess.

9. The CDF overpowered a feeble AFRC/RUF attempt to advance on Mano Junction, the site of the third largest diamond deposits in Sierra Leone. CDF pushed back coup forces into Kenema where they are now completely surrounded.

10. Bo Town is also completely encircled by the CDF. Sam Bockarie is hospitalized in Bo where he was taken to last Wednesday after he survived a CDF ambush as he was rushing to take reinforcements to fight at Waterloo.

11. The BBC correspondent in Freetown has been accused of broadcasting one-sided news reports against the CDF and ECOMOG and in favor of the coupligans. The correspondent, Mark Doyle, is said to be a friend of Dr. Abass Bundu, a coup supporter. Mr. Doyle has failed to report the capture of Tongoh, Waterloo, Benguema, Tumbo, Hastings, Calabar Town, Regent, Leicester and the OAU Village. Moreover, Doyle is said to have failed to notice that coupligans routinely dress as civilians and when these become casualties, he refers to them as "civilian casualties". This Embassy is asking the Sierra Leone High Commission in London to forward its protests to BBC headquarters in London.

12. SLBS Radio/TV was knocked out of commission late Sunday night with the capture of Leicester Peak. Junta forces, however, successfully put into use the second transmitter at Goderich earlier yesterday. SLBS-TV is completely dead.

13. On Saturday afternoon, an ECOMOG jet scored a direct hit on a coup tank mounted with an anti-aircraft gun. The hit shattered the tank and killed six Ulimo coup mercenaries hired from the Liberian militia originally set up by Roosevelt Johnson. the coupligans thereafter scavenged pieces of smashed tank and danced around the streets of Freetown on Sunday, claiming that they have downed an ECOMOG Alpha jet. No ECOMOG jet was shot down and they continue to operate, unopposed, in our skies.

14. A reliable source has informed the Embassy that fully 80% of the Sierra Leone Army troops have deserted with their weapons from the AFRC/RUF junta, leaving the fighting to Liberian Ulimo and other mercenaries.

15. The coupligans' request yesterday for a cease fire and "negotiations" was refused by the CDF. A spokesman for the CDF, Mr. Alusine Koroma, stated that the junta's offer of negotiations cannot be trusted and that all the coupligans are trying to do is buy time to continue their offensive regime. The CDF position is that they will not stop fighting until ECOMOG is fully deployed all over Sierra Leone and coupligans disarmed.

16. Four Ukrainian military advisers - cum diamond smugglers - to the junta were among the fatalities at the Tongoh Field battle, the CDF's great victory to date. Colonel Pankay Bangura, a coupligan, lost his life during the fight for Waterloo.

17. One Hamid Bangura, the coupligan Information Minister, broadcast an order over the feeble SLBS Radio this morning for coupligans to take to the streets and attack pro-democracy supporters. As a result, remnants of the RUF and other hooligans set up road blocks and began harassing or assaulting innocent civilians without provocation.

18. Earlier today, soldiers attempted unsuccessfully to break into Standard Bank of West Africa to loot but parked cars were broken into and their batteries stolen. Police Headquarters was looted over the weekend. The residence of the Principal of Fourah Bay College at Mt. Aureol, Dr. Strasser King, was looted on Sunday before the CDF captured the campus and turned it over to ECOMOG.

19. There has been staff mass promotions in the AFRC. There are now numerous Captains, Majors, Lt.-Colonels; Colonels and Brigadiers. Most of these purported officers are high school dropouts and otherwise failed civilians, crooks, thieves, liars and former sobels.

20. Ambassador Leigh presented his Letters of Commission as Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Canada to the Governor-General of Canada in Government House, Ottawa, Canada on Thursday, February 5 at 11 AM. In his presentation speech, Ambassador Leigh traced the long history linking Canada and Sierra Leone beginning in the late 1770s with the establishment of the underground railroad from the United States to Canada and the subsequent transportation of these freedom lovers to Freetown.

21. Ambassador Leigh then briefed the Governor-General and Canadian government officials on the terrible coup situation in Sierra Leone, the suffering of our people and civilian heroism in resisting the coup and striving for the restoration of our democratically-elected government of President Tejan Kabbah and our 5-Party Parliament. Leigh asked the government of Canada to continue to support ECOWAS initiatives in Sierra Leone, at the United Nations and at the Commonwealth.

22. Leigh concluded with thanks to the government and people of Canada for their substantial support of Sierra Leone development and education efforts through CIDA (Canadian International Development Association) and CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) respectively. In addition to visiting with the Governor-General, Amb. Leigh visited the Foreign Ministry, the Fisheries Department and CIDA.

23. Canadian government leaders were delighted to receive Mr. Leigh's delegation, the first time in six years that Canada has seen a High Commissioner from Sierra Leone. Canadian officials from the Governor-General expressed keen interest in having the unwanted coup crisis in Sierra Leone resolved soonest. Canada pledged her willingness to support UN Peacekeeping efforts in Sierra Leone and expressed a general interest in helping to rebuild the country as soon as the coup is over.

24. Amb. Leigh took advantage of his presence in Ottawa to visit with Canadian citizens interested in Sierra Leone and to attend a meeting of Sierra Leoneans resident in Ottawa at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Abdul Rahman Samu in East Ottawa. The meeting was set up by Mr. Adrian Labour. **end**

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
13 February 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Press Release
February 13, 1998

For immediate publication

1. The AFRC/RUF junta completely collapsed last night in the face of ECOMOG's successful defense of its troops from unprovoked, repeated Coupligan attacks ("coupligan" is shorthand for the group of coupists, looters, killers and hooligans, etc. forming the AFRC/RUF junta and their supporting cast. "Coupligan" is pronounced with a strong "c", a silent "p" and with the accent on the first syllable, thus "KUOligan").
2. Junta officials are fleeing by road and sea. The coupligan chairman, Johnny P. Koroma, was last seen in a pampam early this morning steaming towards Liberia. Ex-President Momoh has also fled to parts unknown. Other coupligan leaders were seen heading towards seaside Peninsular villages.
3. Coup finance minister, Joe Amara Bangali, and coup transport minister, Osho Williams, tried to pass themselves off in Conakry on Wednesday as bona fide refugees from the fighting in Freetown but were recognized by legitimate Sierra Leone refugees. Guinean police arrested the coupligans and turned them over to ECOMOG troops.
4. 51 fleeing coup council members arrived safely this morning in two coup helicopter-gunships at Spriggs Payne Airport, Monrovia, Liberia, under ECOMOG Alpha Jet escort. These helicopters had been terrorizing the population as recently as yesterday evening when one of them bombed a Liberian refugee camp in Waterloo.
5. Coupligan Victor King, the so-called squadron leader - with his two second-hand helicopters purchased from Ukraine military surplus at exorbitant prices by Stephen Bio - negotiated a safe landing of the helicopters in exchange for obeying ECOMOG orders. Thus, instead of being shot down, they obeyed ECOMOG's order to land at the ECOMOG-controlled airport. The captured coupligans are being processed for transportation to Lungi, ECOMOG's Sierra Leone headquarters.
6. Three Ukrainians, affecting fake British accents, were among the 25 passengers in the arrested helicopter.

7. With the cowardly flight of the leading coupligans, their drugged and drunken followers were left to their own devices to unleash unprecedented mayhem upon innocent civilians. Rocket-propelled grenades, mortars were repeatedly fired into densely populated neighborhoods, killing and maiming many, many civilians until ECOMOG began clearing them. But as these Liberian mercenaries retreat, they continue with their killings and destruction, burning houses and vehicles.

8. Three notorious coupligans - Imam Mustada, Warrant Officer Mandareh and the deposed Temne Tribal Headman in Freetown, Abu Black - were among many fatalities.

9. Imam Mustada was religious adviser to the coupligan chairman, Koroma, and reputedly the individual who accused his late brother, Mr. Salami Cole, of conspiring to make a coup against the NPRC, causing SAJ Musa to commit mass murder in late 1991.

10. Warrant Officer Mandareh was the chief coup looter; and the controller & dealer of looted food. Mandareh was then put in charge of anti-looting activities. He used this office to eliminate the competition and was there-upon promoted to major. Mandareh was one of those freed from Pademba Road Prison on May 25 as he was in jail with Koroma for an earlier coup attempt.

11. Abu Black was a widely hated coupligan whose name became the national slang for long-distance transportation by foot. Please see our Press Release of February 3, item 14, for a details.

12. Guma Valley Reservoir was reportedly poisoned last night by retreating coupligans. Coupligans were also burning coastal villages as they retreat on the Western Area Peninsular.

13. Samuel F. Y. Koroma, coup chief of defence staff and the older brother of coup chairman, was the commander of the coup forces defeated by the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and ECOMOG.

14. All the civil service coupligan relatives of Momoh and the Koromas listed in Ambassador Leigh's letter, dated January 14, to Mr. Peter Andersen, have all fled to Liberia but arrested by ECOMOG. These include: Hamid Kamara, Secretary to coupligan chairman; M. T. Bangura (alias "Empty" as in "empty-headed"), Perm. Sec. Agriculture; SAS Sankoh, Perm. Sec. Youth & Sports; Mansou Samura; Osman Yansanneh, Snr. Perm. Sec; Kaysin Kallay, Secretary & Christian Kargbo, Governor, respectively, of Bank of Sierra Leone.

15. There was widespread jubilation and thankfulness in ECOMOG/CDF - liberated areas of the Western Area yesterday for the successful overthrow of the junta but death and destruction lurked in areas away from ECOMOG's presence.

16. Mr. Francis Karimu, former Ambassador to Ethiopia, and his wife Lois, were reportedly executed in cold blood in their home in the Lumly-Juba area by treating drug-crazed Liberian coupligans.

17. The lone coup gunboat appeared in Freetown waters last night and promptly began shelling the city. Some coup shells hit SLET headquarters, killing a number of employees. The gunboat was captured early this afternoon by ECOMOG.

18. Hilton Fyle, the proprietor of a coup-supporting FM radio station, fled from his home yesterday.irate former listeners were looking for him but we do not believe that he has been harmed as yet.

19. Hon. Victor Foh, Member of Parliament, was arrested as a coupligan by ECOMOG forces and transported to headquarters in Lungi to await judgment day.

20. The ECOMOG Commander in Freetown, Col. Maxwell Khobe, is a hero to liberated Sierra Leoneans. He was carried shoulder-high yesterday on his arrival at UpGun to inspect the work of his troops. His soldiers are showered with widow's mite-type gifts; lappas are spread in front of him to walk. Sierra Leoneans are grateful for their freedom but upset about the senseless destruction of the retreating coupligans.

21. ECOMOG has imposed an 8 PM-6 AM curfew in the Western Area as of tonight and has advised Sierra Leoneans not to take the law into their hands.

22. ECOMOG troops captured military headquarters at Cockeril at 4 PM GMT and are poised to reach Goderich by night fall.

23. Coupligans in Makeni have begun to unleash violence upon the inhabitants. A CDF contingent, backed by ECOMOG, are on their way to Makeni.

24. Bo, Kenema and Koidu are surrounded by CDF and all's quiet there.

25. Liberia has recalled its Ambassador to Nigeria in protest of ECOMOG's arrest in Monrovia of the leading coupligans.

26. Paolo Bangura, the coupligan foreign minister, is a lucky man. He escaped to Liberia and is under the protection of President Charles Taylor.

27. President Kabbah will arrive in Sierra Leone soil shortly. He awaits safety clearance from ECOMOG. The President will arrive in Freetown immediately it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, Presaident Kabbah is working around the clock to arrange humanitarian aid to starving and injured Sierra Leoneans. The government in exile is also working to arrange the repatriation of Sierra Leone refugees in neighboring countries.

28. BBC authorities have been in touch with Amb. Leigh to explain the circumstances of the recent alleged biased broadcasts from its Freetown correspondent, Mr. Mark Doyle. This Embassy is satisfied that BBC is doing everything possible to report as objectively as possible and whatever imbalance that occurred in the past was not deliberate and is being corrected. A second BBC correspondent has been posted with ECOMOG.

29. The entire staff of this Embassy thank the numerous Sierra Leoneans and others who gave them unflinching support and encouragement during recent difficult months. We are very grateful.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
17 February 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
February 17, 1998

For immediate publication

Herewith are the latest developments in Sierra Leone:

1. The Vice President, Dr. Joseph Demby, accompanied by the Attorney General, Mr. Solomon Berewa, has left for Freetown as head of a Task Force to re-establish Sierra Leone government's control over the country. Other members of the Task Force include (i) Dr Prince Harding; (ii) Dr. Julius Spencer and Mr. Alieu Bangura, both of 98.1
2. Bo, Kenema and Koidu were captured over the weekend by the Civil Defence Forces. Some Liberian members of the RUF in Bo and Kenema, however, either faked their surrender or were in hiding. These hidden enemies, dressed as Kamajors, suddenly unleashed a deadly counter-attack in Bo and Kenema today, killing and seriously injuring innocent celebrants. Both ECOMOG and our CDF have now succeeded in evicting the coupligans from both towns and are in hot pursuit of the drug-crazed Liberians who appear heading towards the Liberian border.
3. The soldiers in Tekoh Barracks have surrendered to ECOMOG forces in Makeni but not before engaging in carnage and plunder. Some of the coupligans are fleeing northwards to Kabala.
4. The President held a meeting in Conakry during the weekend with members of the international donor community for the purpose of mobilizing emergency humanitarian aid for victims of the ousted junta.
5. The British, German, European Union, UNICEF, and the UN representatives pledged the delivery of immediate - especially food, medicine and essential commodities - and long-term assistance to the people of Sierra Leone. President Kabbah is also working on plans to rebuild homes - except his own - destroyed by or on account of the coup.
6. Millions of Sierra Leoneans, while jubilant at their liberation by ECOMOG, are revolted and saddened by RUF, NPFL and ULIMO savagery, destruction of property and senseless killings. Unfortunately, angry Sierra Leoneans have taken the law into their own hands, killing and

otherwise hurting persons perceived as coupligans or coupligan sympathizers. The President and the Parliament of Sierra Leone and ECOMOG oppose this lawless conduct. ECOMOG has issued a warning to vigilante groups to cease taking the law into their own hands.

7. ECOMOG has restored full services to SLBS-TV. Sierra Leone residents watched a football (soccer) match between Sierra Leone and Guinea on Sunday.

8. Numerous coupligans have been arrested by ECOMOG. A few, such as ex-President Joseph Momoh, Mr. Osman Yansanneh, Dr. Wiltshire Johnson and Mr. Hilton Fyle (alias "lieman radio") have surrendered to ECOMOG in order to avoid street justice. A notorious coupligan liar, former disc jockey to the DC Sierra Leone community, Mr. Alieu Kamara, was timely rescued by ECOMOG from a vigilante group and is now singing the praise of ECOMOG.

9. The entire coup council and cabinet, excepting a few individuals, have been arrested. Still at large are coup chairman, Johnny Koroma; Sam Bockarie; Eldred Collins; and Mingo, the Liberian RUF commander of ULIMO mercenaries. Sam Bockarie may have been arrested in Kenema but this Embassy awaits confirmation.

10. The Lebanese Government has denied, over the BBC, rumors that Coupligan chairman Koroma has sought asylum in their Embassy in Conakry. Frankly, the Lebanese are highly unlikely to jeopardize their citizens' safety and interests in Sierra Leone for Koroma.

11. Koroma, Collins and Mingo, fugitives from justice, are believed to be in Sierra Leone. ECOMOG has called for their immediate surrender.

12. Steve Bio and Cpl. Gborie and still incarcerated in PaDemba Road Prison.

13. Some members of a 10-man delegation sent two weeks ago by the DC-based Sierra Leone National Council to Sierra Leone were reported executed by vigilante groups in Freetown over the weekend. One of the dearly departed is Mr. Alie Kamara alias, Tasman. This Embassy does not know the names of the other victims, if any. Tasman was reported as having gone on coup-TV a few days before the ECOMOG operation, to tell Sierra Leoneans that Americans and most Sierra Leoneans in the US support the coupligans and that help will soon arrive to defeat the Nigerians.

14. We at this Embassy hereby extend our sympathy to the families of Mr. Kamara, his colleagues, to the National Council and to those of the other victims of the coup.

15. Ambassador John Leigh spoke to an assembly of students, faculty and general public at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky yesterday in connection with the University's celebration of Black History Month. The topic was The Sierra Leone-American Connection.

16. During his hour-long lecture, Ambassador Leigh traced the long involvement between Sierra Leone and the United States, beginning in the late 1500s through modern times and explained the contributions Sierra Leoneans made towards the economic and educational development of the United States. Amb. Leigh discussed the key episodes linking the two

countries including Bunce Island, Carolina Rice, the Revolutionary War, the founding of Freetown, the Paris Peace Conference of 1783, the Underground Railroad, the Amistad Revolt, Civil War, the American Missionary Association, the development of African-American education, and the story behind the Christian hymn AMAZING GRACE, etc. Amb. Leigh then answered questions for another 45 minutes.

17. The party that followed ex-President Momoh's wedding at Samaria church, 10 days or so before ECOMOG entered Freetown, was a most lavish affair and considered by many the key social event of the coup period. It was reported that 100 bags of rice and steaks from 3 cows were consumed. Merrymaking continued until noon the next day. Meanwhile, victims of the coupligans were starving silently around the country.

18. Five Catholic Churches in Freetown - Sacred Heart Cathedral, St. Anthony's at Brookfield; St. Martins at UpGun; and Churches at Lumbly and Goderich - were desecrated by Liberian coupligans as they retreated from ECOMOG forces.

19. Several foreign Catholic priests - 3 Spaniards, an Italian, an Austrian and a Canadian - have been kidnapped by rampaging coupligans at Lunsar and Makeni. Archbishop Joseph Ganda led a delegation from the highly-regarded Catholic Mission in Sierra Leone to ECOMOG Commanders seeking help to locate the abducted priests and protect the Church.

20. Also, two doctors attached to MFS - Medecins Sans Frontiers i.e. Doctors Without Borders - were abducted by retreating coupligans last night. Liberian mercenaries also broke into a Red Cross warehouse and looted medicines and medical supplies.

21. The food situation in the country should improve shortly as 850 tonnes of rice and other supplies are slated to reach Queen Elizabeth II Quay at Cline Town today for immediate discharge.

22. Civil Servants who collaborated, or suspected of collaboration, with the junta are being detained at PaDemba Road Prison for interrogation. Each detainee will be given a fair hearing and as speedily as possible. Meanwhile, detainees have commended ECOMOG for treating them properly with respect and due consideration. Early in June 1997, President Kabbah broadcast a message to all Civil Servants not to go to work and specifically stated that those found working during the coup would be deemed collaborators of the junta.

23. The Embassy press conference scheduled for tomorrow at the State Department is canceled because of inclement weather conditions. A new date and venue will be announced shortly.

24. The President issued a statement in Conakry over the weekend thanking all those nations and international organizations who assisted the people of Sierra Leone in the difficult task of restoring the elected government and parliament back in power in Freetown. Specifically mentioned were the United States, the United Kingdom, the OAU, the Commonwealth, the European Community, ECOWAS and ECOMOG and the President of Nigeria.

25. This Embassy invites all Sierra Leoneans in the US in unlawful or non-immigrant status to apply for their TPS - Temporary Protected Status - visa. This visa is available to all Sierra Leoneans who entered the US, legally or illegally, on or before November 4, 1997. TPS is a major US Immigration benefit for Sierra Leoneans over here who would like to gain their Green Card eventually. Those who entered the US after November 4, 1997 should apply for asylum.

LATE NEWS!!

Contrary to earlier reports, ex-President Momoh is still a fugitive from justice. ECOMOG is searching for him. Momoh is believed to be in the Western Area. Other ousted fugitives include coupligan chairman, Koroma, who was reportedly sighted in Fogbo Fakai, near Songo trekking on foot. Eldred Collins was reportedly sighted further west in Port Loko District. Mingo has disappeared from sight.

Vigilante activities in Freetown have substantially declined by mid-week.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
27 February 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
February 22, 1998

For immediate publication

Herewith are the latest developments in and about Sierra Leone:

1. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah left Conakry, Guinea for Abuja, Nigeria this morning to express his appreciation to the government, the traditional rulers and people of Nigeria for their leadership role in ousting the AFRC/RUF junta from Sierra Leone.
2. Plans are afoot by the OAU and ECOWAS Secretariat to have a number of democratically elected African Presidents accompany President Kabbah to Freetown to resume his legitimate office in Sierra Leone. President Kabbah will return to Freetown on March 10, 1998.
3. Joseph Momoh, a former APC Unopposed One-party (1) president of Sierra Leone, was arrested by ECOMOG forces over the weekend in the Westend of Freetown trying to cross an ECOMOG road block dressed as a market woman, complete with kack borbie (2) and braided hair with joanks (3). The coupligan (4) was taken to PaDemba Road Prison and locked up to await trial, possibly for treason.
4. Killings of civilians and looting of their homes by retreating coupligans continue at Bo as of last night. With ECOMOG forces now in town, this Embassy expects the swift capture or fleeing away of coupligan soldiers led by Liberian mercenaries. As of last night, telephone communications with Bo were still unavailable because coupligan soldiers continue to occupy the area where the telephone exchange is located. The Catholic Mission is anxious to make contact with 15 priests based in Bo who have not been heard from in 10 days.
5. This Embassy has been in contact with Father Francis Signorelli, s.x., the Provincial Superior of the Xaverian Missionaries World-wide and based in New Jersey, in connection with five of his missionaries kidnaped in Lunsar and two MFS - Medicins Sans Frontiers - doctors kidnaped in Port Loko. any individual who knows the whereabouts of these kidnaped servants of God should kindly contact this office promptly.

6. ECOMOG forces should reach Makeni by tomorrow to end an orgy of looting and killings by drug-crazed coupligan thieves and thugs.

7. The Commonwealth Secretariat issued a statement in London today praising ECOMOG for a job well done in Sierra Leone. The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr. Emeka Anyaoku, deeply regretted the lives and property lost in last week's eviction of the coupligans but admitted that without the application of suitable force the coupligans would never have vacated their illegal usurpation of civilian offices. Mr. Anyaoku called for more international support to strengthen ECOMOG capabilities in Sierra Leone.

8. The opposition members of the Liberian Parliament last Thursday issued a statement criticizing President Charles Taylor's activities in Sierra Leone and called on him to hands-off Sierra Leone affairs. Allegations are circulating in West Africa that it is the NPFL drugged soldiers sent to Sierra Leone from Liberia that are behind the mass pillage, plunder, carnage and mayhem perpetrated by fleeing junta troops.

9. Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal are slated to shortly contribute troops to ECOMOG for its peace-keeping activities in Sierra Leone. ECOMOG estimates that it needs 15,000 troops to cleanse Sierra Leone of coupligan thugs and thieves. The Republic of Guinea has contributed 2,000 troops to ECOMOG and these troops now control Kambia and parts of Port Loko Districts.

10. The places free of coupligans today are the Western Area and the Districts of Kambia, Kenema, Kono, Moyamba and Pujehun. All of Bo District is free of coupligans except for the Western part of Bo town where the coupligan are still occupying the reservation area where the Southern Army Headquarters is located. Bombali and Koinadugu Districts are now the major focus of ECOMOG attention. Guinean troops are expected to clear Eastern Port Loko District of thugs by the end of this month.

11. ECOMOG began testing, on a Liberia beach this past weekend, heavy guns including huge artillery weapons, for imminent use in Sierra Leone, especially in Makeni to wipe out the coup savages still holed up there and hurting our people.

12. Mr. Christian Kargbo, the coupligan Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone was arrested mid-last week by ECOMOG. Found in his home were numerous crates of brand new, crisp Leone notes, obviously stolen from the Bank of Sierra Leone vault.

13. Coupligan chairman Johnny Koroma is still at large. He is rumored to be with rampaging coupligans in Makeni but this Embassy has not been able to confirm this allegation.

14. Still at large also are the following RUF coupligans: Sam Bockarie; Mingo and Eldred Collings.

15. Hunger is now the main form of suffering in Sierra Leone. The World Food Program which reached Sierra Leone on Saturday, began unloading only today because Queen Elizabeth II Quay was extensively booby-trapped with mines and most of the unloading equipment looted.

The WFP is loaded with 850 tons of bulgur, cornmeal and vegetable oil donated by USAID for free distribution to coup victims. As soon as provincial areas are liberated of drugged thugs, aid will reach our people.

16. Ambassador Leigh was in Charleston, South Carolina over the weekend where he participated in the Black History Month ceremonies of the Gullah community in the Carolina Lowcountry at the Greater Goodwill A.M.E. Methodist Church, Mr. Pleasant, SC. Amb. Leigh spoke on The Sierra Leone-Lowcountry Connection.

17. The Gullahs are African-Americans who were originally transported to the South Carolina and Georgia from around 1695 to 1807, mostly from the slave fort at Bunce Island, but also from Bonthe, Shenge, and forts in the present day Western Area (York, Banana Island and maybe, Tokeh. Some were also taken from Guinea and Liberia.

18. Amb. Leigh related how in the 1700s South Carolina slave merchants, in response to growing demand for labor skilled in rice cultivation, made a specialty of transporting Sierra Leone rice farmers to Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA for the purpose of pressing them into establishing the rice industry throughout the Atlantic coastal region of South Carolina, Georgia and the Sea Islands.

19. Amb. Leigh explained how this rice cultivation brought wealth to the white people of the lowcountry for at least a century, making Charleston one of the wealthiest and most fashionable American cities during the 18th and part of the 19th Centuries. Moreover, a slave importer, Henri Laurens, who made importing Sierra Leonean rice farmers to the lowcountry his abiding specialty, became enormously rich. His wealth enabled him to gain political power becoming President of the US Continental Congress; a Colonel in Gen. George Washington's Revolutionary Army; and later a delegate to the Paris Peace Conference of 1783 that settled outstanding issues arising out the Revolutionary war, including Britain's recognition of the US as an independent and sovereign state. Incredibly, Laurens' counterpart on the British side was Richard Oswald, whose company owned the Bunce Island slave fort and for whom Laurens served as his American agent.

20. LATE NEWS. a) It is all quiet in Bo as ECOMOG ousted remnant coupligans, killing many and capturing the rest. Telephone services with Bo should be restored by the weekend.

b.) The citizens of Makeni are now armed and have begun to defend themselves against the junta remnants. The area around Makeni should be cleared of coupligans in a day or so. Kabala is quiet. Kamajors/Dosonos are now moving from Kono into Kabala.

1. Momoh's APC is very different from the APC led by the Hon. Mr. Edie Turay, MP. The later believes in multi-party democracy; the former was characterized by dictatorship, dishonesty and degradation.

2. Sierra Leonese for size 42 bossom. Anyone familiar with wood carvings of African females should get the idea.

3. "jooanks" is Sierra Leonese for the ponytail-like extensions seen on some African-style coiffiture, popular with young West African female adults.

4. "Coupligan" is pronounced with a strong "c" and a silent "p" with the accent on the first syllable thus: Kouligan. Coupligan is shorthand collectively for all those evil people who organized, led and supported the AFRC/RUF junta that seized power in Sierra Leone on or about May 24, 1997 and were ousted by the combined ECOMOG & Civil Defence Forces on February 12, 1998. These include military coup-mongers, thieves, thugs, liars, rapists, killers, kidnapers, maimers, jail-breakers, convicts, etc.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Letter
1 March 1998

Mr. Yusuf Bangura
[Address]
Switzerland
March 1, 1998

Dear Mr. Bangura:

Thank you for copying me on your letter of 24th January to President Kabbah in connection with this Embassy's press releases and my letter of January 14 to Mr. Peter Andersen. I believe your criticism of my writings would have been unnecessary and not wasteful of presidential attention if you had complied with a simple basic principle, namely: **Get your facts straight.**

Your ill-advised presidential message was predicated on unwarranted conclusions. First, I have at no time denied responsibility for the statements contained in this Embassy's genuine press releases. What I denied were statements such as: (a) "Did the embassy write in its press release that all Limbas are stupid? (b) Did the embassy press release state that only Limbas are coup mongers? Did the embassy press release state that only Limbas support the coup?" And so forth.

Second, I never denied knowledge of genuine Embassy press releases at any time. Bear in mind that my office has never faxed any press releases to Leonenet at any time; nor do we interact in cyberspace with Leonenetters. What I denied was knowledge of Embassy press releases which contained the statements set forth in (a/b/c) above and purportedly posted on Leonenet by us.

Third, in my letter of January 14, I confirmed in writing the accuracy of the posting of our press releases on Mr. Peter Andersen's website only after (i) I determined that Mr. Andersen's postings of our press releases were accurate and (ii) because I wanted to eliminate any and all doubt as to where I stand on press releases issued by this Embassy, not because "new information emerged that" I actually faxed any press release containing the statements set forth in (a/b/c).

Thus, your rush to the President to confidently but erroneously conclude, without first searching for the truth, that (i) I denied responsibility for genuine press releases (ii) or knowledge of the same, and (iii) that I admitted responsibility for the said press releases only after I was caught, is reckless and foolish and borders on the flippant.

Fourth, the implications you concocted from my Andersen note are completely the reverse analysis obtainable from my written words. My letter states simply that it was the Binkolo-Limba-led coupligans (of JP Koroma, SYF Koroma, AM Koroma, H. Conteh and J. Momoh),

NOT President Kabbah's Administration, that had unfairly favored Limba tribesmen (i.e. P.A. Bangura, P. Sesay, H. Kamara, M. T. Bangura, M. Samura and O. Yansanneh, etc.) with top civil service positions for which they were not qualified ("beyond their level of competence"), probably because of tribal favoritism (i.e. "tribal affinity").

Your converting my plain writing to your two implications, namely: (i) that President Kabbah's Administration has a policy of favoring incompetent individuals provided they are not Limbas; and (ii) that the Kabbah Administration has a clear-cut policy of discriminating against Limbas - and that I have said so clearly in writing - is entirely fraudulent. Or, viewing your interpretation in the most favorable light, your misreading of my letter is shocking and throws into extreme question your comprehension of basic written English. Where were you educated?

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
3 March 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Press Release
March 3, 1998

For immediate publication

Herewith are the latest developments in and about Sierra Leone:

1. President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah returned to Conakry last Thursday following the conclusion of his "Thank You" visit to the people, chiefs and government of Nigeria. The President will return to Freetown on Tuesday, March 10 for the restoration of Sierra Leone's constitutional form of Government.
2. A memorial service for those killed by coupligans and a candle-light procession are some of the activities planned for next week.
3. The security situation in Sierra Leone continues to improve. Lunsar was captured on March 1, following the successful ambush of the coupligan remnants by ECOMOG. After the coupligans were over-powered, the surviving citizens of Lunsar can out in the streets to kiss ECOMOG soldiers and welcome them. Earlier, young females had been hidden in the bush to reduce rampart raping of the young by intoxicated coupligans.
4. Makeni fell to ECOMOG on Monday, March 2. The ECOMOG troops that had captured Lunsar the day before reached Makeni within twenty hours. After dealing with drug-crazed troops, ECOMOG liberated 50 Catholic Missionaries and Seminarians that had been kidnapped by coupligans two weeks ago from Port Loko, Lunsar and Makeni.
5. Before they were evicted from Makeni, the coupligans smashed up the electric power plant and the telephone exchange - an exact repeat of what they did in Bo. Consequently, phone service to Makeni and Bo are still suspended.
6. Some coupligans from Makeni headed for Kabala with ECOMOG in hot pursuit.
7. Coupligan chairman Johnny "waw waw boy" Koroma was sighted around the Kono-Guinea border on Sunday afternoon, with his wife and three children, one of whom is said to be a victim of downs syndrome. Koroma is said to be surrounded by sixty bodyguards and rice bags

filled with US dollars. Guinean troops captured his chief body guard, Rambo, on Saturday at the Kono village of Quekor and found \$120,000 in his possession to bribe Guinean security. The funds were turned over to ECOMOG at Jui.

8. The coupligans planted hundreds of dangerous land mines in numerous locations around Sierra Leone before they were ejected. Deadly mines were allegedly planted in such areas as the environs of Lungi Airport, Jui, Kossoh Town, Benguema, Waterloo, State House, SLBS, New England, Queen Elizabeth II Quay, Kissy Jetty, Bo Telephone Exchange, Bo Electric Corp., Bo Reservation, Makeni Telephone Exchange, Makeni Electric Corp., and the Makeni Reservation Area, Lumbly Beach, Mama Beach, Tokeh, WAEC Area, British Council, Parliament/Tower Hill, etc.

9. A young female was killed on Thursday by a land mine near Parliament Building.

10. ECOMOG has captured some of the land mines' maps as well as a number of the coupligans who did the actual laying of the mines. These coup prisoners are now helping ECOMOG to locate and disarm the mines. So far, 115 anti-personnel mines and 114 anti-tank mines have been located and disarmed. A recent international treaty banned the use of land mines around the world.

11. Coupligans have finally begun to surrender in large numbers, partly out of fear of vigilante justice by angry civilians who have been violated; and partly because of hunger and sickness. Coupligans fear civilians far more than they fear ECOMOG.

12. 400 coupligans who had earlier ravaged and violated Lunsar and Makeni, surrendered Guinean ECOMOG troops in MaSiaka last Wednesday after running into an ECOMOG ambush in Lunsar. 200 coupligans surrendered outside Port Loko on Saturday, again to Guinean-ECOMOGs. After Kambia civilians obtained arms and began capturing drunken, drugged Liberian coupligans and lynching them by fire, the rest surrendered. Earlier today, about 40 surrendered earlier today to ECOMOG in Bo.

13. Mr. Cecil Hanson, a powerful politician in Bo who had been influential in a series of dictatorship governments, and a number of alleged coup-Ruf supports were unfortunately lynched to death last week upon the withdrawal of the drunken, drugged coupligans ahead of ECOMOG's arrival in Bo.

14. A British frigate, the Cornwall, is docked at Clinetown to render emergency assistance. 100 of its personnel are in Freetown to repair damaged hospital facilities and to help in rebuilding orphanages and feeding 120,000 displaced children.

15. The Cornwall is equipped with one helicopter that has been flying missions to Bo, Kenema and Segbwema hospitals supplying them with medicines, medical supplies and medical workers. The Cornwall is moving up the coast today to enable its helicopter begin to rapid service to Port Loko, Kambia, Lunsar, Makeni and Kabala.

16. 20 coupligans arrived in Conakry Wharf on Sunday, pretending to be refugees. Guinean authorities promptly arrested them and shipped them to Lungi.

17. The Attorney-General has announced that speedy investigations will be conducted into the conduct of all arrested civil servants to insure justice. Meanwhile, both the International Red Cross and Amnesty International have been authorized to interview all arrestees so they could complain of their treatment if necessary. Close relatives of arrestees are also permitted to visit them while in detention. So far, 145 alleged coupligan civil service collaborators have been arrested. Obviously, not every arrestee is guilty.

18. Hunger is endemic in Sierra Leone today but the international community and Sierra Leonean NGOs are working hard to alleviate the suffering. Agents of the International Red Cross, the UN World Food Program, Catholic Relief Services & USAID are working overtime to bring food and medicines to violated Sierra Leoneans.

20. ECOMOG's routing of the beastly coupligans from all urban areas has brought some significant improvements in certain economic statistics. The Leone has since appreciated by 43% from 2,800 Leones to the dollar to Le 1,600. A 50 lb. bag of rice sells for Le 33,000 down from Le 80,000. Gasoline has declined from Le 17,000 per gallon to Le 8,500. A serving of palm oil is down to Le 500 from Le 1,600.

21. The Commonwealth Ministerial Group - Botswana, Britain, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe - will be sending a delegation to Sierra Leone.

22. Vice President Demby and Col. Maxwell Khobe, the ECOMOG commander in Sierra Leone, late last week held news conferences. Col. Khobe pledged that by March 31, 1998 not a single rebel or coupligan or offensive weapon will be on the loose. Meanwhile, ECOMOG jumbo cargo planes continue to pour men and supplies into Lungi. ECOMOG troops continue to enter Sierra Leone from the Liberia end.

23. ECOMOG on Saturday declared Johnny "waw waw boy" Koroma, the ousted coupligan chairman, a wanted criminal subject to immediate arrest. Ibrahim Bazy-Kammara, a notorious violent coupligan, and several coup council members have escaped to Plantain Islands, off Shenge, Moyamba District. ECOMOG is after them.

24. 196 Sierra Leonean refugees in Ghana have been evacuated from the Ringway Estates to the Sanzule Refugee Camp in the Western Region. These 196 were among 700 Sierra Leoneans who arrived in Accra five months ago in the hopes of obtaining Green Card visas upon their winning US Diversity Lottery. The 196 Sierra Leoneans appealed for refugee status because they lacked money for their return flight home.

25. The Deputy Finance Minister in the duly elected government, Mr. Momoh Pujeh, has announced that President Kabbah will be returning to a country in dire financial straits because the country is flat broke and because coupligans destroyed many assets.

26. OAU has paid a special tribute to President Sani Abacha of Nigeria for ousting the coupligan junta of savage thugs, thieves and killers, etc. from Sierra Leone. Abacha and a number of African presidents will be in Freetown on March 10 with President Kabbah.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Statement
5 March 1998

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

By Ambassador John Leigh of Sierra Leone

At the National Press Club
Washington, DC 20045
March 5, 1998 at 9 AM

Mr. Peter Hickman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, good morning and thank you for coming. I am delighted to be here this morning and to share with you important information on recent events in the Republic of Sierra Leone as well as plans for President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah's imminent return home.

FIRST, the abusive junta of killers and hooligans has now been evicted from almost all of Sierra Leone by troops sent in by ECOWAS nations, led by Nigeria and the Republic of Guinea.

SECOND, a Task Force of Sierra Leone civilian officials, led by the Vice President, Dr. Joseph A. Demby, reached Freetown, the capital, two weeks ago and have since taken over control of the country from the combined ECOMOG and the local pro-democracy militia forces. Vice President Demby's Task Force is readying plans for receiving President Kabbah.

THIRD, President Kabbah will leave Conakry on Tuesday morning, March 10, 1998 to assume his legitimate office in Freetown, Sierra Leone less than an hour away by air.

FOURTH, President Kabbah will be accompanied to Freetown by Mrs. Patricia Kabbah and by a number of African Presidents, including President Robert Mugabe, as Chairman of the OAU; President Sani Abacha, as President of ECOWAS; President Konan Bide of Cote d'Ivoire; President Lansana Conteh of the Republic of Guinea; President Yayah Jammeh of The Gambia and, possibly, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

FIFTH, social conditions in Sierra Leone are briefly summarized here:

Hunger is now approaching starvation situation. Children have begun to die for lack of food and medical care.

The injured and sick are dying in hospitals for lack of medicines and medical attention. Sierra Leone's need for food and medical help is desperate and urgent.

Without prior exemplary work by USAID in Sierra Leone - in aiding the planting of food crops during the year and months preceding the coup - starvation in Sierra Leone would have today reached catastrophic proportions.

Schools and colleges have been out of session since May 22, 1997. It is going to be slow getting these back in operations because junta soldiers and hooligans looted classroom and other public facilities. Besides, what was not looted, was destroyed.

SIXTH, the military situation in the country is as follows:

There is peace and tranquility and jubilation in 90% of the country. Our people are relieved with their liberation by ECOMOG.

ECOMOG has arrested nearly all the junta leaders and their most notorious civilian collaborators. The civil rights of all arrested personnel are being scrupulously respected by authorities under the supervision of the Sierra Leone Attorney General who is part of the Vice President's Task Force presently in charge in Freetown.

Remnant junta thieves and hooligans are on the run in the far north, trying to reach Liberia through Eastern and Southern Guinea. Ousted coup chairman, Johnny Koroma, is in this group. ECOMOG and Civil Defense Forces are in hot pursuit. Retreating junta remnants are causing carnage and mayhem as they flee.

Most of the junta forces fighting in Sierra Leone - and causing devastating damage to civilian facilities and killing innocent people as they flee - are men from Liberia. Virtually all junta forces of Sierra Leone ancestry have surrendered.

All Catholic Missionaries, Seminarians and aid workers kidnapped by fleeing junta hooligans have been rescued, alive and well. The highly-regarded Catholic Mission was the object of junta malice during the last ten months.

All vigilante reprisals against junta members and their collaborators nationwide have ceased.

Junta forces booby-trapped large sections of urban areas with land mines purchased from Ukraine military surplus.

SEVENTH, the duly elected Government of Sierra Leone respectfully asks for humanitarian aid in the following areas:

Food and medicines and medical help, especially for children and females.

We need manpower and financial legal help to lay the proper foundation for democracy by providing fair and speedy trial of all those in detention.

ECOMOG and the pro-democracy civil defense militias need the support of the Congress of the United States in the area of troop transport facilities if peace-keeping in Sierra Leone is to be carried out successfully.

EIGHTH, the President and Parliament of Sierra Leone very much appreciates United States moral support for Sierra Leone during the coup crisis and would now welcome tangible practical assistance, such as the allocation of military planes for the transport of peace-keeping troops from contributing West African countries to Sierra Leone.

NINTH, On behalf of the people and government of Sierra Leone, President Kabbah hereby thanks the US Congress for passing House Concurrent Resolution No. 99 in July of '98 in favor of the early restoration of the democratic system of government in Sierra Leone. President Kabbah also wishes to express his personal appreciation to Senator John Ashcroft, Chair of the Senate Sub-Committee on Africa, for the opportunity given him last October to brief Senator Ashcroft on the unrest in Sierra Leone.

Ambassador Leigh of the Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United States of America avails himself of this opportunity to extend to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, the assurances of his highest consideration.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Letter
12 March 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

TO: The African Affairs Subcommittee, Foreign Relations Committee, United States Senate

FROM: John E. Leigh, Ambassador of Sierra Leone To The United States

SUBJ: DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA: Statement Of The Restored, Elected Government of Sierra Leone, March 12, 1998.

The people of Sierra Leone are gratified with the recent restoration of their duly elected government and parliament back to their rightful offices in Freetown. If you may recall, our elected President and Parliament were overthrown in a violent military coup in the early morning hours of May 25, 1997 by military criminals and other felons.

14-16 months earlier, Sierra Leone voters had defied violent anti-democratic groups to participate in two rounds of elections, the first democratic elections in Sierra Leone in 30 years. The elections were observed by the United Nations, Commonwealth and by various American groups and were universally declared "free and fair" by all observer groups.

On February 12, 1998 the military peace-keeping forces of Sierra Leone's West African neighbors, known as ECOMOG and led by Nigeria and Guinea and supported by the government of the United Kingdom, liberated the people of Sierra Leone from a 10-month reign of terror instigated by anti-democratic elements of our society. The reign of terror in Sierra Leone was supported by Liberian arms and thousands of Liberian soldiers from the governing National Patriotic Front of Liberia and the so-called ULIMO-K.

Throughout the 10 months our elected government and parliament were in exile in Conakry—and while the reign of terror imposed upon our resisting people persisted—the United States Department of State provided no financial support to ECOMOG or the elected government, both of which worked to restore democracy in Sierra Leone.

Apparently, the State Department, upset at the military government in Nigeria, failed or refused to recognize the value of Nigeria's peacekeeping and democracy-promotion roles in the West African Subregion. The State Department, instead, chose to deny financial assistance to our exiled government and ECOMOG. In sum, the State Department appeared willing to use Sierra Leone as a sacrificial lamb—if that is what it took to deny Nigeria whatever laurels are accruing to her as the result of Nigeria's very successful policies in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

We suggest that the State Department formulates a viable policy towards Nigeria that would recognize, and be supportive of, Nigeria's very positive roles in the Subregion as well as provide for the development of democratic institutions within Nigeria—rather than in over-investing in a policy of containing the Nigerian military, regardless of its consequences on a country such as Sierra Leone.

A United States policy supportive of the advancement of democracy in the Subregion would require linking Liberian security with Sierra Leone security. ECOMOG must therefore retain a presence in both countries until democratic institutions in Sierra Leone and Liberia are repaired, rebuilt and strengthened.

The United States ought to provide direct military and financial assistance to ECOMOG to increase its effectiveness, similar to what the United States is doing for its African Crisis Response Force in Senegal and Uganda.

The United States should provide direct financial and technical assistance to the Sierra Leone government, and humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone as requested by the Sierra Leone government. The people of Sierra Leone have demonstrated their preference for a democratic system of government through their participation in multi-party elections in spite of repeated threats of violence; and for resisting a reign of terror in the name of their elected officials. They now require United States help to build democratic institutions on firm foundations.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
16 March 1998

Embassy of Sierra Leone
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: 202 939-9261/62
Fax: 202 939-1993

Press Release
March 16, 1998

For immediate publication

Herewith are the latest developments in and about Sierra Leone:

1. This is the last but one Attack War Communiqué from this Embassy. The last war communiqué will report on the result of ECOMOG's effort to search, locate and capture the remnant AFRC/RUF coupligans presently on the run. With the duly elected democratic government in place - and with news information available from a multitude of sources - this Embassy will now devote its limited endeavors to more appropriate pursuits.
2. This Embassy's communiqués have successfully achieved the war-winning objectives set by this Embassy, namely to: (i) accurately inform on coup developments at home, (ii) convey to the world the catastrophic sufferings of the Sierra Leone people as well as their heroic defiance of the AFRC/RUF junta; (iii) graphically portray the coupligans for what they truly are, (iv) isolate the lead coupligans; frustrate, demoralize and defeat them and their peons; while giving hope to our suffering people that freedom will be theirs; and (v) doing all of the above with some humor as a partial relief to the bestiality at home and the anger of Sierra Leoneans towards the evil, savage beasts.
3. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah returned in triumph to Freetown at 9 AM on Tuesday, March 10, accompanied by the Chairman of ECOWAS, General Sani Abacha, and the Presidents of Guinea, Mali and Niger. President Kabbah wore a white agbada and was flanked by Gen. Abacha in blue - and President Lansana Conteh in Green - agbada.
4. Jubilant Sierra Leoneans from all sections of the country lined President Kabbah's path - from receiving him at Lungi through Hastings all the way to Brookfield Stadium.

Earlier, Sierra Leoneans had voluntarily cleaned the city and planted flowers. Flags, bunting and banners decorated the shattered city. Homeless beggars and mentally ill men and women were washed and given clean clothes and fed. Some streets of Freetown were washed with soap

an water as a symbolic gesture of cleansing the country of the blood violently spilled by the coupligans.

5. Restoration celebrations commenced with a vigil on Monday evening at the steps in front of the Law Courts. Speeches were given, songs sang and poetry read. There was a lantern parade and the celebrations lasted all night.

6. In his restoration speech, the President thanked God for delivering the country from the tyrannical clutches of AFRC/RUF evil people. He thanked Nigeria, Guinea and the other ECOWAS nations for booting out the coupligans and restoring to the people the officials they chose in free and fair elections to govern them.

7. The President told his audience that he is the President of all the people and that all Sierra Leoneans will be treated equally, fairly and justly by his Administration and that there will be no tribal or religious favoritism of any kind. He asked Sierra Leoneans to ponder as to how the country came to near-total destruction and that we should now strive to put an end to injustice, greed, selfishness and corruption.

8. The President let it be known that we can all serve our country loyally and effectively without serving in any particular government. The private sector will be developed with reputable investors to provide opportunities for our people.

9. President Kabbah announced that he will run his restored Administration with integrity and competence to achieve the very best for Sierra Leone. The cabinet will be reduced to 15 members and a Policy Advisory Committee of people with good education, good track record and appropriate experience will be appointed to help him evaluate and advise him on policy matters.

10. Since the restoration of the elected government, prices have begun to tumble. The price of a 50 lb. of rice has declined from Le100,000 to Le27,000. Gasoline is now Le3,000 per gallon, down from Le20,000. Poda Poda fare that costs Le1,000 now goes for Le200.

11. While most of Sierra Leone is at peace, trouble continues at Kono and Kailahun

Districts but ECOMOG is moving to those areas. Two weeks or so ago, coupligans kidnapped two doctors from Koidu, killing one of them, Dr. Kamara, point blank before they realized that he was a doctor. Apparently, the ousted coup chairman, JP Koroma, is ill or wounded and needed medical service. So his men came to town at night to capture doctors, nurses and medical supplies. The mass murderer, SAJ Musa, is with Koroma who is said to be near the Kono-Koinadugu line.

12. RUF psychopaths Sam Bockarie and Mingo are in Kailahun at the so-called Camp Libya run by the RUF. With them in the area is RUF coupligan Eldred Collins of Kissy Village but who had emigrated to Liberia. The RUF maintains two other camps in Kailahun District: Camp Burkina and Camp Charlie. ECOMOG is massing troops and equipment to liquidate the fake RUF rebellion. Guinean military commanders began meeting with their Nigerian counterparts

in Freetown mid-week to organize the Kono-Kailahun campaign to finally rid our nation of evil beasts.

13. President Charles Taylor's delegation to the Restoration ceremonies was booed repeatedly by Sierra Leoneans during the Stadium speeches that the delegation's chairman was not able to deliver his speech.

14. In contrast, Gen. Sani Abacha of Nigeria and President Lansana Conteh of Guinea were enthusiastically and jubilantly received and Sierra Leoneans could not thank them enough for liberating them from the clutches of brutal savages.

15. Coupligan Lt. Col. Philip Musa Duwa, a so-called logistics officer (i.e. store keeper), surrendered to ECOMOG in Voinjama, Lofa County, Liberia last week. Why he waited so long to surrender is a matter for investigation. A coupligan security officer, Mohammed Kallon, security officer to the AFRC vice president, was arrested in Conakry last week by Guinean police after Sierra Leoneans pointed him out.

16. Terrence Terry, an attorney for the coupligan and who profited mightily from coupligan commercial activities, has fled to England from Conakry and may be trying to enter the United States, according to information provided to Ambassador Leigh by Americans in the State of Connecticut. A number of other Sierra Leonean lawyers were coupligan collaborators. These include NPRC Attorney General, Claude Campbell, AFRC Attorney General Manley Spaine and a few others.

17. The British, whom some post-independent Sierra Leoneans repeatedly called insulting names - colonialists, neo-colonialists dogs, exploiters, etc. - over many years, still retain their loyalty to Sierra Leone that originated when a group of African-Americans rebelled against slavery and took up arms on behalf of Britain during the United States Revolutionary war in 1776. United Kingdom Government has been very help to President Kabbah's Administration. In addition to the highly valuable work done by HMS Cornwall as reported in our last Press Release, the UK government is operating shuttle flights from London to Lungi bringing all kinds of useful things, such as medicines, medical supplies, baby food, office equipment, office supplies, safety equipment, food, sheets, soap, etc.

18. The United Kingdom Government has advanced the Sierra Leone Government two million pounds sterling as emergency aid.

19. The United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir John Weston, today saw his Security Council resolution to lift the embargo on the importation into Sierra Leone of Petrol and Petroleum products approved unanimously by the Council.

20. Four Paramount Chiefs ("PC") were assassinated by the coupligans while their sick coup lasted. The first chief to be murdered was PC Lebbie, 63, of Njala Komboya Chiefdom in Bo District. He was brutally killed on October 10, 1997. 84 year-old PC Sandy Demby of Gerihum, Bo District, a blind PC and brother of Vice President Demby was the second PC killed by the AFRC/RUF. Third was PC Dassama of Giama Dama Chiefdom, Kenema District. On 13th

January this year, PC Alimamy Kandeh Kargbo II of Medina Tonko Limba Chiefdom, Kambia District was killed in cold blood in front of his family by soldiers dispatched to Medina by SYF Koroma, a hard-drinking coupligan. An eye witness to the killing, Mr. Sylvian Koroma, said PC Kargbo was shot several times by three soldiers of the Sierra Leone army because they said PC Kargbo supported the UN and ECOWAS sanctions and wanted to rid the country of the junta.

21. PC Alimamy Kargbo II was a Member of Parliament and remained faithful to democracy to the end. He had been on two previous occasions arrested and detained for so-called subversive activities against the evil beasts. Before departing, the same soldiers shot Mrs. Kargbo in the leg and also shot the PC's bodyguard on the left arm. The body-guard died three days later at Port Loko Hospital. Mrs. Kargbo is receiving treatment.

22. A fourth PC also died but from persistent mistreatment and harassment by junta forces. 89 year-old PC Joseph Kabundeh Boima of Kasaa Chiefdom, Bo District died on December 9 at Bo Hospital from hypertension resulting from harassment and detention. The elderly PC was accused by the junta of being a patron of the Kamajors. Dr. S.S. Saccob of Makeni and the Sports Minister under the elected government, angrily condemned the killing of Southern Traditional Rulers by the junta and said such a record could "easily give birth to the wrong political child."

23. Speedy trials will be given to all arrested coupligans and their collaborators. One of the most notorious coupligans, Victor Fo, an APC MP, is already on his third day of interrogation. He is talking non-stop according to reports reaching this Embassy.

24. Mrs. Isha Dyfan, a Sierra Leonean Barrister, was among four members of the Federation of African Women's Peace Network who participated at a press briefing on March 9 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Mrs. Dyfan stated that the proliferation of small arms was a major cause of war in Africa and that the rebels in Sierra Leone, although they committed many atrocities, made rape their specialty. The majority of war crimes were committed by underage boys who, she said, had been initiated into the rebel movement by forcing them to rape women the same age as their mothers. Barrister Dyfan proposed that the international conventions that govern the conduct of wars between states should be applicable to intra-state wars.

25. Ambassador Leigh spent the weekend of March 8 in New England on official business, accompanied by Mrs. Leigh and their younger daughter, Susannah.. On Friday evening, Amb. Leigh was a guest of honor at a reception at the US Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island, sponsored by the Newport Chamber of Commerce and the Black and Brown Heritage Fund. Amb. Leigh met several Naval Officers, the past and present mayors of Newport and explored various possibilities with the various officials.

26. On Saturday morning, Amb. Leigh addressed the students, faculty and administrators of Brown University and the community of Providence, Rhode Island at the Solomon Theater, Brown University on the Meaning of the Amistad Experience And Its Legacy to Americans. US Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island introduced Amb. Leigh. The event was well attended and the Q & A session that followed was intense and lively.

27. On Sunday afternoon Amb. Leigh traveled to Mystic, Connecticut to participate in the Laying of the Keel of the Replica of the Amistad at the Mystic Seaport Ship Yard under the sponsorship of Amistad America, Inc. The Sierra Leone Cultural Organization, Inc., under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohammed Barrie of Boston, was in attendance and the organization's Dance Troupe performed splendidly throughout the afternoon.

28. Nearly 600 Americans, including US Senators Dodd and Lieberman of Connecticut, as well as groups from out of town and as far away as Chicago, attended the keel laying ceremony. Also attending were members of (i) the Amistad Committee of New Haven, CT., (ii) Freetown-New Haven Sister Cities Project and members of the United Church of Christ whose missionaries had accompanied Sengbeh Pieh and his fellow freed captives back to Sierra Leone in 1841 and eventually set up churches and schools all over Sierra Leone.

29. During the ceremonies, Amb. Leigh poured the libation upon the Amistad keel. Leigh recognized the great contributions made approximately 160 years ago to the cause of human freedom and international cooperation by a small group of selfless Americans from New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts which set in motion forces that contributed to the abolition of slavery and the opening up of Sierra Leone to American education and Christianity, the lessons of which will endure forever.

30. All the major TV news organizations, including CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox, were in attendance. The New York Times carried a three-column news report about the Amistad Keel Laying event in its March 9 edition. Copies of this article are available from this Embassy upon request and upon providing a self-addressed, stamped envelop.

31. Friends of Sierra Leone are organizing the shipment of donated goods such as clothes, shoes, soap, food, utensils, furniture, books, pencils, paper, etc. for refugees and displaced people in Sierra Leone. Donations are to be dropped off at this Embassy on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 & 22. Please contact Mr. Tim Curley of Friends of Sierra Leone at 301 439-4413 for details prior to delivery.

32. Sierra Leone Refugees in Western Guinea on the Kambia and Port Loko side of Sierra Leone are leaving in droves to return home. Initially, eleven buses transported the first set of returnees. Presently, six full-size buses bring our people home daily. On the other side of Sierra Leone, refugees continue to flow into Guinea from Kono and Kailahun Districts because the RUF and AFRC-led Liberian coupligans are committing carnage and mayhem in those Districts. ECOMOG is almost ready to capture the criminals.

33. Last but not least. Sierra Leoneans resident in American can assist the work of this Embassy by letting your US Senators and Congressmen and women know in writing that you want the USA to assist the democratically elected government with economic and social aid as well as support the work of ECOMOG in Sierra Leone. Call for details.

LATE NEWS! 34. President Kabbah has declared a State of Emergency throughout Sierra Leone for the purpose of obtaining Constitutional powers to arrest coupligans, deal with coup civil servants, deport undesirable foreigners, seize illegal assets, etc.

35. There is a continuous hue and cry all over Sierra Leone for the summary punishment of coupligans. The Administration, however, insists that the Due Process of law must control the prosecutions of all alleged criminals. Vice President Demby asked the Nigerian Government, in his March 10 speech, to extradite Foday Sankoh.

36. Mr. Frank Kposowa, president of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, has asked for an investigation of journalists who collaborated with the junta. Mr. Kposowa claims that some journalists endangered the lives of others and brought discredit to the profession. He wants collaborators punished swiftly and banned from the media forthwith.

37. Five Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, including Canada's and Britain's, will shortly visit Freetown. Prof. Septimus KaiKai will shortly assume in Freetown his previously announced position as Presidential Spokesperson. The former Secretary to the President, Mr. SAT Bayoh, who allegedly served the coupligans before disappearing in Ghana, returned to Freetown no sooner than the President arrived. A delegation allegedly went to the President to ask for forgiveness on behalf of Mr. Bayoh. Reportedly, the President swiftly rebuffed the petitioners.

38. ADDENDUM - TPS IMMIGRATION VISAS

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS US VISAS are still available to all Sierra Leoneans resident in the United States in non-immigrant or unlawful status.

The fact that the coupligans have been ousted does not affect the right of Sierra Leoneans to TPS visas at all. The fact that President Kabbah has returned to Sierra Leone does not affect your right to a TPS visa at all. The fact that you entered the US illegally, does not affect your right to a TPS visa at all. A TPS visa holder will not be arbitrarily deported when the program terminates, as falsely rumored. Do not listen to ignorant tales.

Sierra Leone is still considered a place of unrest because of the destruction, the killings, maiming, the poverty and the great difficulty to rebuild the country as a result of 30 years of corruption, multiple coups, the RUF rebellion and the stupid, brutal coup.

Thus, we believe that the TPS program for Sierra Leoneans here will continue for years as is the case with similar civil unrest in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Liberia. Further, your TPS Visa will not be canceled after the program is over. TPS is a good stepping stone towards your Green Card. Make productive use of your time in the US.

Please note that Sierra Leoneans illegally in the US, who fail to avail themselves of TPS visas will be dealt far more harshly and summarily than those who obtained TPS visas.

This Embassy advises all qualified Sierra Leoneans to take lawful advantage of the TPS program and begin to obtain the legal right to stay here permanently. This valuable immigration benefit is so important to our people that Ambassador Leigh and the Head of Chancery, Mr. Hassan Conteh, will personally answer your immigration questions. Do not rely on ignorant people for information. Find out the truth yourself from this Embassy.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Testimony by Ambassador John Leigh
11 June 1998

RECONSTRUCTING SIERRA LEONE

Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Africa
Committee on International Relations
Rep. Edward R. Royce, California, Chairman
United States House of Representatives
June 11, 1998

By

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee on Africa, I am John Leigh, the Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United States. Thank you for inviting me to testify before you this afternoon on a matter of utmost urgency to the people of my country, i.e. the reconstruction of Sierra Leone after approximately three decades of misrule, corruption, military coups, civil war, plunder, carnage, mayhem, the collapse of civil society and, finally, the restoration of the duly-elected government and parliament of Sierra Leone back to their rightful positions of authority, amidst continuing atrocities by the evicted junta.

Mr. Chairman, unknown to most Americans, Sierra Leoneans, of all Africans, have the longest business relationship with North Americans beginning with the first transportation, in 1565, of African people from the area around Africa's largest natural harbor in what is now our capital, Freetown, to St. Augustine in present-day Florida by Spanish empire-builders. In 1619, the slave trade in English-speaking America began with the delivery of 20 slaves from Sierra Leone to Jamestown, Virginia. Since that time, and continuing through the 1800s, our people were brought to these shores to help develop the American economy, now the World's richest.

Mr. Chairman, a look at the Human Development Index, published annually by the United Nations, will show that Sierra Leone is among the least developed countries, if not the least developed country, in the World. This has caused some commentators to refer to Sierra Leone as one of the World's poorest countries, if not the World's poorest country. This characterization is incorrect.

Sierra Leone is a richly endowed country. Our country is endowed with ample reserves of high-value minerals such as gold, diamonds, platinum and titanium. Other minerals include bauxite, chrome and iron ore. Indeed, if the slave traders who ravaged Sierra Leone knew what was underground, they would have left our people alone.

Sierra Leone also sits atop the richest portion of the East Atlantic Continental shelf, one of the world's richest fisheries. The coastline of Sierra Leone and its river system are the principal spawning grounds for a whole lot of tropical fish inhabiting the continental shelf.

The country is well-watered, with a nine-major-river system with the capacity to furnish the country and its neighbors with all the inexpensive electricity they would ever require in the foreseeable future. Further, the country has enough naturally-well-watered land to produce an abundance of our staple food crop, rice, for home consumption as well as for export. Coffee and Cocoa grow well in Sierra Leone as are a whole host of tropical crops, fruits, flowers, food and medicinal plants. Oil and gas are rumored to be in the Southern Delta area of the country.

A large number of Sierra Leoneans are well-educated at home and in universities around the world. The first 4-year, accredited, English-Language college with a Western-style curriculum and standards in Africa is in Sierra Leone where it was established in 1827 by the Church Missionary Society of England. Sierra Leoneans still retain their reverence for education.

Despite all of the above, Mr. Chairman, Sierra Leone and its government are poverty stricken and the country racked by violence, disease and chronic instability. Why?

The reason is quite simple: for nearly thirty years - from 1967 to 1996 - the country was badly mismanaged by a corrupt and brutal political-military elite, led at various times by the likes of Siaka Stevens; General Joseph Momoh; Captain Valentine Strasser, a 27-year-old puny boy dictator; "Brigadier" Maada Bio, a 26-years old high school graduate who promoted himself by gun law from 2nd. lieutenant to brigadier in three years; and "Major" JP Koroma, a high school drop-out who was expelled from parochial school during 10th Grade for habitual criminality.

This group of kleptocrats: (a) executed or imprisoned dissidents and rivals; (b) looted and squandered public funds and foreign aid; (c) plundered our natural resources and (d) refused to provide public services to the people. The consequences are still with us: (i) a massive flight of capital and the expulsion of tax-paying corporations; (ii) the destruction of the national economy; (iii) the most catastrophic brain drain in the history of nations with fully 85% of our middle class out of the country; (iv) the importation of fly-by-night business people and smugglers of our natural resources (who bribe officials, pay slave wages and pay no taxes) and the giveaway of our fisheries at fire sale prices; (v) extreme government & civil society poverty; and (vi) the degradation of our national currency, the Leone (Le) - from Le1.00 = \$1.50 in 1967 to \$1.00 = Le1,700 in 1998. Thus, during the 30-year rule of the kleptocrats, they degraded the value of the Leone from \$1.50 to less than six-tenths of one American cent today.

In March 1991, a civil war involving rural rebels and backed by Charles Taylor of Liberia, erupted in Eastern Sierra Leone, purportedly to compel proper reform. In the process, towns and villages were destroyed, as were schools and public facilities. Children were pressed into

military service, either as soldiers or as sex slaves. Addictive drugs were used to keep rebel troops motivated and under control. Tens of thousands of our innocent citizens were killed, maimed or injured and private property destroyed or stolen. Whole villages were wiped out. Elements in the Sierra Leone military secretly connived with the rebels to despoil the countryside and these soon became known as Sobels, i.e. soldiers by day and rebels at night.

Mr. Chairman, in 1995, the people of Sierra Leone, led by females, rose up and demanded a say in the governance of our country. After stiff resistance by the corrupt and morally-bankrupt civilian-military elite, and after much international intervention - especially from the United Kingdom and the United States, free and fair elections were held in Sierra Leone in early 1996. President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and a 5-party Parliament were elected. Rebels known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) were invited to participate in the elections but declined.

President Kabbah's Administration immediately began a long and difficult process of finally bringing peace and economic progress to Sierra Leone. Leaders of the defunct military regime were granted amnesty, given golden parachutes and United States or British visas. A peace agreement, known as the Abidjan Accord, was entered into with the RUF. During President Kabbah's first year in office, the economy grew from an annualized contraction rate of 10% to a positive growth rate of 5%. The annual inflation rate was cut from 65% to 5%. The Leone appreciated by nearly 32%. Sierra Leone fully cooperated with the IMF's restructuring program, including strict fiscal discipline; trade liberalization and the privatization of public enterprises. Poverty alleviation programs were being put in place.

Unfortunately, those individuals and groups who caused the destruction of Sierra Leone were still in the system and determined to continue business as usual, such as: bribe-taking; extortion; the provision of little or no public service to the people; the plunder and the sale of our national resources at fire sale prices; the abuse of children and rural destruction for the purpose of the plunder of private property. When the elected government made it clear that such practices were unacceptable, profiteering military elements, aided by their civilian collaborators, staged yet another coup on May 25, 1997. They formed a junta - the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council - invited the RUF to join them and suspended the country's Constitution.

Thus began the Reign of Terror that lasted approximately nine months of gang-rape, looting, beatings, jailing, killings, maiming, wounding, kidnappings, abuse of children, and starvation of civilians; the plunder of public funds and natural resources; gun-running; arson; lying; destruction of public records; destruction of private property, intimidation, sanction-busting, illicit mining, and nation-wrecking. The people of Sierra Leone never supported the Koroma coup despite their deprivations and the repeated, gross violations of their civil rights. In fact, national civil disobedience against the junta was complete. It was quite clear to me, from day one, that this coup was unacceptable and must be reversed, peacefully or otherwise.

Despite numerous regional and international attempts to peacefully restore the Constitution and the elected officials of Sierra Leone to their rightful positions of authority, the junta refused to cooperate, using various foolish ruses. Beginning in mid-February, as the junta's reign of terror continued unabated, and with Liberian soldiers supporting the junta; the Military Observer

Group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of (16) West African States (ECOWAS), led by Nigeria, evicted the junta from Freetown and have since routed them from all but the most remote areas of the country. Our President, Parliament and Judiciary returned to Sierra Leone on March 10 and Sierra Leone is today a functioning constitutional democracy. Sierra Leoneans are still in a state of jubilation from their liberation by ECOMOG on February 15.

Junta/rebel remnants, however, continue to kill, maim and humiliate peasants in remote areas of the country. Most of the continuing junta atrocities are being imposed on our people by heavily drugged Liberian soldiers of President Charles Taylor's so-called National Patriotic Liberation Front (NPLF). Many of these NPLF criminals have been captured and held by ECOMOG. The junta leadership is still at large and are believed to be under the protection of the Liberian authorities. These include junta Foreign Minister, Paolo Bangura; junta Defense Minister, M. T. Kamara; and RUF Deputy Leader, Samuel Bockarie, the Butcher of Kenema.

President Kabbah understands the need for lasting peace and economic progress and would very much like the United States to assist in rebuilding his country in the following areas:

1. INTERNAL SECURITY. Junta mayhem is almost at an end but pockets of atrocities exist. ECOMOG needs more soldiers and supplies to secure the peace. A number of ECOWAS countries, other than Nigeria, have offered troops but cannot transport them to Sierra Leone. The United States could assist here by providing troop transport and supplies for additional ECOMOG troops.

Additionally, a professional military that understands its role in a democratic society has to be created. The civilian police and civil defense forces must be rebuilt and equipped. Help from the United States in these areas would be much appreciated.

2. STRENGTHEN UN ACTIVITIES IN SIERRA LEONE. The United Nations Organization has a small peace-observer group in Sierra Leone. This tiny group is wholly inadequate to cope with the situation there. The US should support additional UN involvement in the country as continued UN involvement in Sierra Leone can only strengthen civil society.

3. SUPPORT RECONCILIATION AND THE RULE OF LAW

Reconciliation is the steadfast pursuit of justice. Wrongdoing should be punished. Genuine rehabilitation can take place only after the determination of culpability, just punishment and atonement. Without trial, punishment and atonement, there can be no genuine forgiveness.

59 junta members and their collaborators are presently on trial under the rules of the common law. Additional defenders will be tried later. All accused are charged - or will be charged - only for conduct that was known as criminal as at the time the conduct were alleged to have been committed. All those found guilty will be punished only according to the punishment specified in the applicable laws. The constitutional authorities in Sierra Leone will see to it that the law is allowed to take its usual course without interference from any source.

In November 1996, the RUF and the Government of Sierra Leone signed the Abidjan Peace Accord. The provisions of that agreement will be strictly enforced as they provide a negotiated basis, supported by the regional and international communities, to bring peace to our country. Crimes committed subsequent to that agreement will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

President Kabbah would appreciate United States backing for these policies.

4. HELP REBUILD CIVIL SOCIETY

Many Sierra Leonean civilians have nothing left. Virtually everything they ever owned have either been stolen from them or destroyed or degraded - their families, homes, farms, jobs, schools, colleges, hospitals; their health, justice, etc. Most educated and technically skilled Sierra Leoneans - doctors, engineers, lawyers, economists, teachers, college professors, nurses, entrepreneurs - have long emigrated, mostly to the industrial democracies. Here micro-credit, technical expertise, resettlement assistance schemes, outright grants or soft loans for the rebuilding of infrastructure, the eradication of disease, the provision of clean drinking water, rural electricity and the encouragement of reverse migration, are desperately needed.

Moreover, Sierra Leoneans have demonstrated their commitment to a democratic system of government by; (i) pressing for elections, (ii) voting in the face of violence, (iii) resisting a most savage coup and (iv) standing firmly behind their elected officials. Thus the foundation for building a strong democratic civil society has been demonstrated to exist in Sierra Leone.

An independent judiciary is an integral part of the genuine democratic system of government and is essential to national economic prosperity and political stability. The constitutional authorities will do all in their power to realize this objective with support from the international community.

5. SUPPORT SIERRA LEONE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

President Kabbah is aware that without adequate public revenues and private sector economic growth, peace cannot be durable and educated Sierra Leoneans will continue to emigrate. Sierra Leone, however, needs technical help in creating appropriate systems that will properly harness revenues and other benefits from our substantial natural resources. Sierra Leone is interested in opening up its economy to legitimate American businesses that will take a long term view of the country, provide gainful employment for its citizens and pay their fair share of taxes. President Kabbah has no interest in fly-by-night operations. Sierra Leone supports the AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT presently before the US Senate and would welcome measures that would further American investments in Sierra Leone such as investment credits and insurance. Sierra Leone will set up Enterprise Zones and provide valuable incentives to attract legitimate foreign capital.

6. SUPPORT US-SIERRA LEONE CULTURAL LINKAGES. The United States Park Service had been working on developing the Bunce Island Slave Fort site as part of the cultural heritage linking Sierra Leone with the United States. Several slave fort sites from whence many African-Americans originated dot the Sierra Leone coastline. Collaboration between the Sierra Leone

Medical School and that in Charleston, SC in conducting research to isolate the gene that cause diabetes was being explored when military coups interrupted valuable work. President Kabbah hopes that projects such as these would be revived so that the true cultural connections between Sierra Leone and the United States can be fully explored.

7. NIGERIA AND LIBERIA

Nigeria is a positive force in Sierra Leone. The citizens of Sierra Leone cannot thank the government and people of Nigeria enough for liberating them from the reign of terror unleashed upon them by the brutal, unreasonable, savage regime of AFRC/RUF killer-thugs.

Nigeria's role in ECOMOG in Sierra Leone is identical to the role of the United States in the restoration of President Aristide in Haiti. Nigeria's conduct can be best described as an act of liberation. It was not a counter-coup at all.

Today, Sierra Leoneans are in deep mourning over the sudden death of President Abacha of Nigeria, who they consider their savior and protector from brutal savages. The United States may not have approved of President Abacha's role in Nigeria, but in Sierra Leone Gen. Abacha will forever remain their hero. Finally, ECOMOG's activities in Sierra Leone and Liberia are in complete harmony with United States interests in the area. United States should, therefore, continue to support Nigeria's peacekeeping and stability-generating role in the area.

President Charles Taylor's Liberia is an unmitigated disaster for Sierra Leone. Taylor not only nurtured the RUF and sent it to Sierra Leone as punishment for Sierra Leone allowing its territory to be used as the initial ECOMOG base for ending Taylor's war, he sent NPLF soldiers into Sierra Leone to support the AFRC/RUF junta during the coup. NPLF soldiers continue to infiltrate into Sierra Leone and today are committing unspeakable atrocities against innocent peasant villagers in the Sierra Leone countryside. Moreover, Liberia has provided illegal sanctuary to the junta-rebel leadership and is believed to be the source of the cocaine used to motivate and control the drugged junta-rebel soldiers raping and amputating civilians.

Thousands of ex-NPLF soldiers remain idle in Liberia with little or no economic prospects for the future. Sending them to Sierra Leone is one way for Taylor to avoid his responsibility for providing them with gainful employment. The United States should reign in on Taylor to compel him to stop interfering in Sierra Leonean affairs. The United States should assist Liberia so that Liberia can put the energies of NPLF fighters into productive use.

The security of Sierra Leone is inexorably linked to the security of Liberia. Assisting one country but not the other would amount to a complete waste of limited resources. Viewing Sierra Leone as a 'British responsibility' and Liberia as 'American' is a totally wrong policy.

Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, of all African nations, the Republic of Sierra Leone has had the longest continuous contact with America, pre-dating the establishment of the United States, beginning in St. Augustine in 1565 and Jamestown, Colony of Virginia in 1619.

During the 1700s. American business interests led by Col. Henry Laurens of Charleston, South Carolina, later President of the United States Continental Congress, working in partnership with British entrepreneurs, led by Lord Richard Oswald of the House of Lords in London, made a specialty of importing technically-sophisticated Sierra Leonean rice farmers to introduce and develop the rice industry in the Carolina and Georgian low country and Sea Islands. The production which our people contributed over several centuries helped lay the economic foundation for the American super state. Today, the Gullah people of the Atlantic low country - South Carolina & Georgia - retain many aspects of Sierra Leonean language and culture.

Sierra Leone's contribution to the power and prosperity of the United States is not limited to the economic area. Our forefathers and mothers helped the American people understand the concept that human rights should apply equally to all humankind and not just for the benefit only a particular group or class or race of people. Although the first nation-wide, American slave revolt of 1776-77 was put down by Gen. George Washington, some of our forefathers and mothers escaped from their bondage and found their way back to freedom in Sierra Leone.

In 1839, another group of Sierra Leoneans, led by Sengbeh Pieh of Tiama, Southern Province of Sierra Leone, staged the only successful slave revolt in the 400-year history of the Atlantic slave trade aboard the slave ship, La Amistad. The Sierra Leone captives were subsequently put on trial in Connecticut at a time when the United States Government, as well as 90% of the American people, believed that slavery was good for America. The fight of Sengbeh Pieh (known to Americans as Joseph Cinque) and his fellow Sierra Leone captives for their natural right to freedom, not only helped strengthen the independence of the American judiciary vis-a-vis the executive, it educated the American public about the gross violations of human rights inherent in the then American institution of slavery and thus set in motion forces that ultimately produced the Emancipation Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln.

The dramatic story of how my ancestors sensitized the American people to the need for universal human rights as well as their fight for freedom helped strengthen the independence of the system of justice in this country are amply documented in Prof. Howard Jones book: Mutiny on the Amistad and in Stephen Spielberg's 1997 movie: Amistad.

Clearly, the contributions which people from Sierra Leone made to the development of the United States over the centuries have been substantial. While the United States has rendered aid to us since our national independence in 1961, and while the people and government of Sierra Leone very much appreciate the assistance we've received so far from the United States, we desperately need substantial American help of the productive kind set forth above so that we could rebuild our shattered country and create and maintain an economy that would underpin a progressive democratic for all times, and for all the people.

Respectfully submitted

John E. Leigh, Ambassador Extra-ordinary & Plenipotentiary.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
31 January 1999

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

PRESS RELEASE
January 31, 1999

Herewith are further developments on the situation in Sierra Leone as of Noon today:

1. ECOMOG and CDF have cleared invaders as far away East of Freetown as Rokel Village, located between Hastings and Waterloo. Waterloo is under the protection of ECOMOG Guinean troops and there are no invaders or outlaws there.

2. Civilian Security Movement ("CSM"), a civil society volunteer group, has set up a system of road blocks and identification for reach Freetown resident by neighborhood. Any person who claims to reside in a particular neighborhood but is determined to be a stranger in that particular neighborhood is handed over to the authorities for interrogation.

3. The CSM was established because many rebels were left behind ECOMOG lines when their commanders were killed or fled. These laggards are said to be hiding in "pan bodies", abandoned buildings, unfinished buildings, construction sites, pipes, tunnels, etc. Some of these rebels have millions of Leones with them that they had extorted or robbed from their victims during the first week of the invasion. Rebels use this money to bribe for their freedom or safety and to send small boys or their women, dressed in looted clothes, to buy ready-to-eat food such as garri, sugar, bread, and kola nuts. Cigarettes are also sought after.

3(a). Local CSMs are determined to help ECOMOG flush out laggard rebels and prevent strangers lurking around their neighborhoods. Any person who seeks to buy relatively large quantities of ready-to-eat foods are referred to ECOMOG.

4. The RUF has reported from Monrovia that it will attack Freetown again on February 6. Many people and the authorities have taken this threat seriously. Some residents are seeking to move to Conakry and Banjul to pass the time until the threat is over. Intercepted RUF radio messages, however, reported that Sam Bockarie has ordered rebels to base.

5. There are widespread rumors in the Western Area that ex-President Joseph Momoh was among those killed when ECOMOG sought to flush out rebels and escaped condemned prisoners hiding inside a tailor factory at Calabar Town. There is no official confirmation of Mr. Momoh's death. In addition to Mr. Momoh, known escaped prisoners who accompanied

the rebels that freed them from PaDemba Road Prison include Victor Foh, Salami Williams; E.T. Kamara, ex-APC one-party Minister For Party Affairs; Ahmadu Jalloh, former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and a 1996 Presidential candidate based in Kabala; the late Steve Bio; the late Gibril Massaquoi and Hilton Fyle. It is not certain whether Mr. Momoh accompanied the rebels voluntarily or was compelled to go with them.

6. Earlier in December, Mr. Momoh had confessed to Dr. Jonah, when the latter visited him at PaDemba Road, that his association with the AFRC/RUF junta was a grievous mistake. He would never had been involved with them if he knew how evil those fellows were. Momoh does not want Foday Sankoh forgiven, let alone freed, because he blamed Sankoh for selling his country to Taylor and to Campore, and for corrupting Johnny Paul Koroma & SLA junior ranks.

7. Captured rebels have provided the authorities with further details concerning the time, place and manner of SAJ Musa's death. SAJ Musa, a former SLA captain, was one of Sierra Leone's most callous mass murderers. In January 1995, he tied twenty-six Sierra Leoneans, male and female, to the stake and shot them to death in cold blood, allegedly for attempting a coup against the NPRC even though Musa himself was a most notorious coupligan.

8. Musa died in combat in Benguema on December 22, 1998 and was instrumental in having the rehired, ex-junta troops collude with the RUF against ECOMOG. Musa spent most of 1998 in the North supervising killings, rapes, arson, mutilations, looting and abductions in areas from Kabala to Kambia.

9. "Brigadier Fivefive", a cashiered Warrant Officer of the Sierra Leone Army ("SLA"), has now been identified by an unofficial source as the Brigadier Kanu who announced on Radio 96.1 on January 6, that he was in charge and had come to "liberate" Freetown.

10. Sergeant Burnhouse, the invader's O/C Arson, has been reported captured in Wellington by ECOMOG. No official confirmation has been received of this capture. Burnhouse's nick name, when he was in the AFRC was "Tapehkoh" (Temne for "let's kill them"). He is said to be undergoing interrogation but, again, there is no official confirmation of this.

11. Large numbers of rebels were killed early last week at Mamba Ridge when they were discovered fighting from Guma Valley pipes; and at the hills near Kissy after the trapped rebels launched "Operation Naked" to resume burning of houses and mutilations against innocent civilians. On Tuesday evening, men naked excepts for their underpants; and stark naked women entered Kissy. The naked women sought to divert attention from their men's violent activities by crudely exposing already naked body parts to ECOMOG and the CDF. It is reported to be Foday Sankoh's theory that a battle can be won if naked females are used to misdirect the attention of the opposition. This tactic failed woefully at Kissy on Tuesday, January 26.

12. Also last week, some rebels were found hiding at Odeon Cinema and at PZ stores by civilians.

13. A escaped civilian, whose aunt's house was occupied by the invaders for approximately one week in Wellington, explained what life was like during the occupation and before ECOMOG and the CDF surprised and killed the rebels.

a) The leader of the occupying force carried the title: O/C Cuthand. The female head of household was forced to cook and feed the occupiers under constant threat of amputation and gang rape.

b) There were approximately twenty invaders initially. During the day, the occupiers went out recruiting additions to the rebel group. Those who refused were killed or badly mutilated. Some youths joined them. Rebels also spent their days pillaging, looking for hostages and extorting money from shops, businesses, and from poor people. Those who lacked money were killed or mutilated or had their homes burned. Rebels also burned vehicles, clinics, community centers, schools, churches, mosques and shops after looting.

c) The rebels view females mainly as sexual objects for instant gratification by force and as domestic servants who were frequently raped and physically abused.

d) Some rebels sleep by day while others serve as sentries for those resting.

e) At night, the rebels eat their main meal, rape their females captives and review the days activities outside in the backyard, under trees but never inside the house. Top in their list of topics in the rebel casualty list for the day. At various times, O/C Cuthand and his crew have related the following deaths: Gibril Massaquoi, Steve Bio, Captain Blood, Brigadier Fivefive, various white mercenaries, AFRC/RUF/NPFL and BF officers and the wounding of ex-President Momoh, etc. They have also complained about their hopeless entrapment and the failure of Charles Taylor and Sam Bockarie to send in promised reinforcement. The rebels apparently fear the CDF far more than they fear ECOMOG.

14. So far three Sierra Leone journalists have been killed and four wounded. Of the four wounded, two have had their eyes gorged out by rebel knives at Kissy. The concord Times and the Standard Times have had their offices and production facilities burned. No newspapers have been published in Freetown since January 6.

15. Of the six nuns abducted by the RUF invaders, three are confirmed killed by the rebels, one is ill, one is in good condition and the sixth nun's status is unknown.

16. The French medical charity, Doctors Without Borders, returned to Connaught Hospital over the weekend. The government and the International Red Cross Society have settled their differences. Seized communications gear have been returned to NGOs and some of their international workers are on their back way to Freetown.

17. A 6 PM to 7 AM curfew is still in force in Freetown. There is an 18-hour curfew on all coastal and navigable waterways. So far, three ships from Monrovia have been either sunk or forced to throw their illicit cargo overboard and forced to return to Liberia.

18. Two important government officials have been arrested for collaboration with the invaders. They are: Mr. SAS Sankoh, permanent Secretary, Minister of Defense and Major Kalawa of Military headquarters, Murray Town. Both are from Binkolo, Bombali District.

19. Mr. Sankoh was reportedly hiding and feeding seven rebels, all from Binkolo, in his official residence during the first ten days of the invasion. Major Kalawa is alleged to be a spy for Charles Taylor and had arranged for newly sewn RUF uniforms to be made available to the invaders upon their successful capture of Freetown. A large supply of these uniforms were found in a house associated with Kalawa in Murray Town.

20. During their last days of destruction at Kissy, Wellington and Calabar Town, the RUF invaders added teeth-pulling with pliers; and eye-gouging with sharp knives, to hand-cutting by machetes and arson as new forms of inflicting cruelties on civilians.

21. Radio 98.1 is frequently broadcasting information of missing personalities and bringing relatives together throughout the day - from dawn to late night.

22. Rice is now selling at Le 40,000 a 50lb. bag., However, the invaders stole or burned people's belongings, including their money and life savings. Also, many places of employment were destroyed. RUF's victims are left with nothing except the clothes they wore on escape.

23. The exchange rate for the US dollar is now \$1 equals Le 2,200.

24. The Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC held a seminar featuring a three-man panelists: Dr. John Karefa-Smart, Member of Parliament, Prof. Herbert Howe of Georgetown University and Ambassador John Leigh. The subject was: How do We Get Out of The Mess In Sierra Leone.

a) Dr. Karefa-Smart's contribution consisted of his view of history, blaming the SLPP for organizing the RUF, for all the coups in Sierra Leone, for defrauding him of his rightful positions in Sierra Leone as Prime Minister in 1964 and as President in 1996. He claimed he won the 1996 elections and that Nigeria is the invader in Sierra Leone. Dr. Karefa-Smart appeared to have brought henchmen into the seminar. these henchmen were noisy throughout.

b) Prof. Howe is an international security expert. He linked Liberian violence with Sierra Leone's violence and set forth evidence that former Executive Outcomes military leaders are training the RUF in Liberia. He discussed the mercenary involvement and said the RUF access to diamond resources is the key to the funding of their insurgency. Unless diamonds and Liberia are divorced from the RUF the insurgency will continue indefinitely. Prof. Howe also mentioned the financial strain on Nigeria and said the World must aid Nigeria if a regional peace force is to remain successful and that the violence in Sierra Leone is a sub-region problem, not just that of one country.

c) Ambassador Leigh presented four ways to exit from he present violence but first stated that the World should understand the fact that the violence in Sierra Leone is not a rebellion at all but rather a war of aggression against Sierra Leone by Charles Taylor of Liberia and supported

by Burkina Faso and others. An eight-year mis-analysis of the problem caused the wrong policies to be implemented unsuccessfully. According to Ambassador Leigh, the four ways to end the conflict in Sierra Leone are the following:

1) Total war against the rebels. No more Mr. Nice Guy. tit-for-tat violence in the following proportion: One rebel: ten ECOMOG. All phony cease-fire proposals should be ignored and the war pursued to its logical conclusion. The rebels' Operation No living Thing should be converted to ECOMOG's Operation No Living Rebel. The RUF's Operation Pay Yourself should be converted to ECOMOG's Operation No Rebel Mining. Burkina Faso troops must be removed from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

2) Humanitarian aid in the areas of medical services, food distribution, housing construction and seed capital should be secured internationally for the benefit of the victims of RUF violence.

3. Peace Negotiations must be vigorously pursued under the terms of the Abidjan Peace Accords. Sankoh should be prosecuted to the limit of the law for his crimes.

4. International Diplomacy should be put in place to prosecute war criminals for their heinous crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
15 February 1999

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE
1701 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
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PRESS RELEASE for immediate publication
February 15, 1999

Herewith is a summary of Sierra Leone news since our press release of February 7.

1. The Times of London, in its February 11 edition, reported that the United Nations and Western intelligence agencies are investigating the possibility that an international criminal consortium of crooked diamond dealers and cocaine traders are behind Liberian President Charles Taylor's attempt to seize Sierra Leone and set up a puppet regime in Freetown.
2. The Times news report named Col. Fred Rundle of South Africa and Nico Shafer of Ecuador & Colombia as rogue businessmen in partnership with Charles Taylor. Shafer worked for the late Pablo Escobar, the notorious Colombia Cocaine Cartel leader. Fred Rundle formerly served with Executive Outcomes and his company is training Liberians, abducted Sierra Leoneans and other West African criminals to wage war against the elected government of Sierra Leone.
3. The Times wrote that Taylor's objective is to set up a criminal enterprise regime in Sierra Leone, using the puppet regime he wants in place of President Kabbah, as a front. A semi-illiterate soldier, Johnny Paul Koroma, is Taylor's candidate for puppet President of Sierra Leone.
4. Col. Yair Klein of Israel, a one-time military adviser to Gen. Khobe at ECOMOG headquarters, Wilberforce before he was arrested for espionage for Taylor, continues to provide the government of Sierra Leone with information proving the Liberian/Burkina Faso/Libyan origins of the violence in Sierra Leone. Klein is reputed to have been in the pay of Pablo Escobar in the 1980s in Cali, Colombia where he trained terrorists to fight the Colombia government. Interpole records indicate that Klein is wanted by Colombia for promoting terrorism.
5. Klein was in the employ of Charles Taylor from January 1996 through August of 1998 when he joined ECOMOG in Freetown. In November 1998, unbeknown to ECOMOG and the Sierra Leone government, Klein allegedly made a secret trip to Liberia and Burkina Faso to conclude arrangements for the December-January AFRC/RUF/NPFL/BP offensive against the government and people of Sierra Leone. He used Ukrainian pilots working for airlines plying

the west coast to illegally bring in mercenaries and communications equipment into Sierra Leone.

6. The Attorney-General, Mr. Solomon Berewa, is visiting ECOWAS Region to show evidence of Liberian, Burkina Faso and other rogue states fomenting, financing, training and arming the rebellion in Sierra Leone under the fraudulent guise of a civil war. Mr. Berewa will later visit Western countries supportive of Sierra Leone democracy to produce said evidence.

7. Taylor is making frantic efforts for peace talks to take place before the RUF is further weakened. Taylor tried last week to push the President of Mali to offer Bamako as a location for Sankoh and his RUF colleagues to meet for consultations. President Kabbah will not allow Sankoh out of Sierra Leone's jurisdiction except that he is willing to have talks held at sea. The RUF has refused the offer of a British frigate but has been unable to find an acceptable alternative so far.

8. Further, this Embassy has learned from reliable sources that before Sankoh is allowed to meet with his surviving RUF colleagues, the RUF must simultaneously permit the elected government and the international community to talk to the members of the Committee for the Consolidation of the Peace arrested by the RUF in early 1997. These Peace Commissioners include Messrs. Philip Palmer, Faiya Musa, Dean Jalloh and Ambassador Diabre.

9. Despite the chilly weather, large numbers of Sierra Leoneans from various cities in the United States and Canada demonstrated at Lafayette Park in front of the White House in Washington, DC on Saturday calling on the United States government to come to the aid of the victims of violence and to strengthen ECOMOG. Speaker after speaker pointed out that although the US has the power to make a difference, it is not doing enough, paying attention to white people in Kosovo and ignoring the extreme suffering of black people in Sierra Leone.

10. Among those at the Lafayette Park demonstration were Ambs. Leigh & Dabor, and Hon. David Quee, former MP, Minister of the Interior, and now Chairman of the Gold & Diamond Office. In his remarks, Ambassador Leigh again made it clear that the long-running violence in Sierra Leone is not a civil war at all and never has been a civil war. Rather, the bloodshed there is a war of aggression by Liberia, supported by rogue states and international criminals in the diamond and cocaine trade who are determined to stick-up our country by armed robbery and terrorism so they could steal our diamonds; corrupt and weaken our people with addictive drugs and then use Sierra Leone as a sanctuary for criminal enterprises to destabilize other nations.

11. Mr. Leigh further stated that Taylor owns the RUF and that Sankoh, Bockarie, Koroma, etc., are mere lackeys, stooges and running dogs of Taylor; willingly selling their country to Taylor, Burkina Faso, other rogue states and criminal businessmen so that these illiterate killers and mutilators of innocent people could have the chance of becoming members of the new elite of Sierra Leone.

12. The Washington demonstration was organized by CORDISAL and NOSLINA.

13. Reports from Monrovia indicate that Taylor spent hundreds of thousand of dollars on his 31 year-old daughter's wedding in Monrovia on January 18. The former Ms. Taylor was presented with a Mercedes 500 as a wedding gift. Meanwhile, there is no electricity or water supply in Monrovia, now known as a city of darkness. Garbage is piled high in the streets while Taylor and his entourage drive around town in a fleet of expensive vehicles.

14. ECOMOG has restructured its command organization to establish a separate garrison for the defense of the Western Area, it was announced by ECOMOG headquarters yesterday.

15. Gen. Khobe has explained why it was possible for the rebels to penetrate Freetown last month and carry out the sacking of the city under Operation Octopus. He reported at an inquiry in Lagos that the ECOMOG Command at Shell Company-Refinery failed to block the advancing rebels at Grassfield, outside Kissy Mess Mess, as previously instructed to and as the then commander had agreed. ECOMOG knew all about the movements of the rebels but was let down by its commander at Shell. Said commander has been arrested and taken to Nigeria where he is to face a court martial. A similar failure in command occurred in Monrovia during the NPFL Operation Octopus in 1994 and it was later discovered that an ECOMOG commander guarding one of the approaches to Monrovia had been bribed.

16. The long-awaited attack at Makeni by ECOMOG and the CDF has commenced in a low key fashion. Meanwhile, Taylor has sent a further 1,900 newly-trained Liberian troops to the Sierra Leone border. AFRC troops, under pressure in Makeni, attacked Bumbuna over the weekend to stretch ECOMOG assets so as to reduce the pressure in Makeni but were repulsed by SLA/Kapra troops commanded by Col. Robert Koroma.

17. The promised RUF attack upon Freetown from the Western suburbs has still not materialized and the substitute RUF attacks at Kenema have fizzled out after the CDF inflicted devastating casualties on the AFRC/RUF/NPFL/BF invaders there.

18. Never-the-less, Omrie Golley is peddling the fiction that if peace talks are scheduled, he will use his "good offices" to prevent further AFRC/RUF/NPFL/BP attacks on civilians. The fact is, Taylor's forces were exterminated in Freetown in January with 95% of their leaders killed. Taylor's smoke screen of disguising his aggression against Sierra Leone as a civil war has been exposed and, finally, Taylor is under severe international scrutiny, especially for war crimes charges and the identity of his criminal backers and rogue states helping him with troops, weapons and training. All these developments have conspired to weaken the RUF.

19. ECOMOG has reported that General Vanni, one of Taylor's top military officers, was killed in Freetown last month. Vanni was formerly the second-in-command to Yomi Johnson, an early Taylor supporter but who later split with him. Vanni was later bought over by Taylor. Those who have seen the video of the torture and slow death of Samuel Doe would recall Vanni as the individual who sliced off Doe's ears and poured salt water in Doe's wounds.

20. Our report last week that the International Committee of the Red Cross has returned to Sierra Leone is not correct. Apologies. Although the elected government has reached out to the ICRC, an agreement to permit their return has not yet been concluded. However, some foreign NGOs have begun to return to Freetown and resume activities.

21. The United States Ambassador at Large for war crimes, Mr. David Scheffer, has returned to Washington after conducting a preliminary investigation in Freetown of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sierra Leone. The government of Sierra Leone is working closely with several UN Security Council Member States and ECOWAS Members to investigate violations of international law in Sierra Leone.

22. The human catastrophe in Freetown following its sacking by the RUF is still very immense. Although the congestion at the Brookfields Stadium has eased somewhat, nearly 200,000 people still depend on feeding centers for their daily food and at least 100,000 remain homeless. Most temporary shelters lack water and sanitation facilities. The humanitarian situation is desperate. However, security from rebel attacks have improved significantly.

23. The remains of the Hon. M. B. Sesay, Minister of State, and Y. M. Koroma, Minister for the Northern Province, were buried on Saturday, February 13 following their exhumation from shallow graves at Mamba Ridge, Kissy Brook. About a week after the AFRC/RUF/NPFL/BP invasion of Freetown, Messrs. Sesay and Koroma were captured and executed by the invaders.

24. Unconfirmed reports state that Taylor has admitted to the presence of Liberians in Sierra Leone and has called upon them to lay down their arms. Meanwhile, the international community is investigating Taylor's sponsorship of the violence in Sierra Leone. His call for Liberians fighting in Sierra Leone to lay down their arms may be a ploy to reduce his liability for the damages he and his co-conspirators have caused the people and government of Sierra Leone.

25. Sam Bockarie, a semi-illiterate leader of the RUF and who fancies himself as a future Sierra Leone defense minister should peace negotiations succeed in RUF's participation in government, lives in Monrovia and drives a pink cadillac. Despite the fact that he & Taylor sent thousands of their men to untimely deaths, Bockarie still believes he is a good military leader.

26. The ninjas (Sierra Leonean for street ruffians and petty criminals) have falsely reported in their web page that Ambassador Leigh is under investigation for corruption associated with this Embassy's work on TPS/ETC. The ninjas report claims that a non-Sierra Leone nursing aide, married to a Sierra Leonean paid "thousands of dollars" to Ambassador Leigh for assistance with a phony TPS application. Lastly, the ninjas claim that Ambassador Leigh's crimes were exposed by a Northerner.

27. First, apart from the ninjas, the RUF, Charles Taylor and the AFRC, no one is investigating Ambassador Leigh, a man widely known for his uncompromising integrity. From the ninjas report, it is clear that ninjas are dim-witted individuals with a semi-illiterate, tribal-failure, Judas-like mentality and who know nothing about T.P.S.(Temporary Protected Status), E.T.C.

(Emergency Travel Certificate), the financial capability of nursing aides or how this Embassy functions.

28. TPS/ETC processing is handled by the Chancery officers, Mr. Hassan Conteh and Mr. James Caulker, and not the Ambassador. Ambassador Leigh works with the Immigration authorities to free legitimate refugees from US jails or to jail and deport coupligans without fear or favor. Second, nursing aides make approximately \$10.00 an hour and are unlikely to be able to accumulate "thousands of dollars" to pay for TPS assistance, especially when the community knows that the going rate for legal fees for TPS assistance is between \$300 and \$600.

29. Lastly, Ambassador Leigh is aware of a Northerner from Koinadugu District who claimed to be an SLPP member who was driven out of Sierra Leone by Siaka Stevens. However, Amb. Leigh discovered that this Northerner was a vouchergate crook who ran away from Sierra Leone to escape prosecution. He was a District Officer, "educated" in Communist Europe who exploited his own poor people and viewed his authority over them as a license to defraud and oppress them.

30. This Northern crook tried to use his self-proclaimed claims of SLPP membership to gain an unfair, inside-tract advantage for corrupt purposes and privileges in the Embassy. But he had no idea how determined Ambassador Leigh was to clean up 30 years of corruption. When he was told in no uncertain terms that he will not be permitted any corrupt favors in this Embassy he paid someone in Standard Times to libel Ambassador Leigh. This Northerner's last name begins with a "C" with the first letter of his first name being an "O". His is chronically unemployed and depends on his wife's earnings for his living expenses. Poor exploited woman!

31. The Washington office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has informed this Embassy that approximately 25,000 out of approximately 40,000 Sierra Leone refugees in camps near the border with Liberia have been moved further inland. As the RUF normally recruits unsuspecting refugees in border camps for Taylor's war in Sierra Leone, the relocation of these refugees away from the Sierra Leone border would reduce RUF's recruitment pool and/or increase RUF recruitment costs. Unsuspecting refugees are initially enticed by RUF recruiters with money to join Taylor's army, only to find out later that they have no choice but to submit to RUF brutality and compulsory drug addiction. The predicament of female recruits is even worse: they are subjected inhuman sexual and domestic slavery.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
2 June 1999

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

1. The delegation representing the elected government of Sierra Leone is continuing to engage in peace talks to resolve the conflict in Sierra Leone with representatives of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Lome, the Republic of Togo. Since March 1991, the RUF has waged a war of terrorism against unnamed Sierra Leone civilians in its long-running campaign to seize control of Sierra Leone and subjugate our people by force.
2. Beginning on Friday, May 28, numerous individuals - Americans and Sierra Leoneans - have telephoned this embassy to obtain clarification of certain statements emanating from unofficial sources indicating that the elected government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has now agreed to forthwith free Cpl. Foday Sankoh, the RUF leader from imprisonment. As you may be aware, Sankoh is appealing a death sentence imposed upon him, after trial, by the Sierra Leone High Court in the Fall of 1998 for treason. Sankoh's appeal of his death sentence is pending but the Sierra Leone Appeals Court granted him leave to participate in the Lome Peace Talks.
3. There is no truth whatsoever to news reports that the delegation representing the elected government at the peace talks acquiesced to repeated RUF demands to forthwith free Cpl. Foday Sankoh unconditionally.

The position of the elected government was clearly articulated by its delegation leader, Attorney General Solomon Berewa, who made it clear that Cpl. Sankoh will be released only if such action is the price to pay for lasting peace in Sierra Leone and that any such release would be strictly in accordance with well-established judicial and constitutional procedures.

4. It is thus accurate to say that Sankoh will be released on probation only after a comprehensive peace agreement is concluded and only after the peace has been fully implemented in all respects. When the people and government of Sierra Leone are convinced beyond all reasonable doubt that Sankoh has not only terminated his violence against them but has truly abandoned violence as a means of gaining political power in Sierra Leone, will constitutional review of his death sentence commence. In the meantime, Sankoh's appeal of his death sentence must follow lawful judicial procedures and he is required to return to Freetown upon the termination of the Lome Peace Talks.

5. The RUF's contentions that it is not fair to hold Sankoh hostage while the RUF is engaged in peace talks and that Sankoh's release is necessary as a so-called confidence-building measure, are without any factual or logical basis.

6. First, Sankoh is not being held hostage at all. He is free in Lome and his prisoner status is a legitimate matter for negotiations. Second, the elected government has already made several significant concessions to the RUF to boost their confidence - such as agreeing to a cease-fire on rebel terms and the unprecedented release of Sankoh from prison so he could join his RUF colleagues in Lome - without the RUF giving the elected government anything of commensurate value in return. Third, it is the RUF that must now demonstrate good faith, given its long record of deception and its well-documented propensity to seek to gain an unfair advantage at the slightest opportunity.

7. Meanwhile, the peace talks appear to be progressing satisfactorily. Issues under discussion are substantive matters such as the composition of the disarmament monitoring group and the organization of the new army. There will be no power sharing without the consent of voters.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

8. The cease-fire in the Sierra Leone conflict continues to hold. A RUF unit has now dismantled the weapons and the road blocks it illicitly established on the highway through Okra Hills three days after the cease-fire came into effect on Monday, May 24.

9. The cease-fire is holding probably because ECOMOG and the CDF forces are not tolerating even the slightest violation of the truce. When a truce violation occurs - such as frequent rebel attacks on ECOMOG positions in Kenema, Kono and Kailahun Districts - helicopter gunships are swiftly sent to take care of the offenders. Offending rebel troops have been decimated in Kenema, Kailahun and Kono Districts. Rebels are now out of Segbewema and those in Eastern Kailahun are retreating to Liberia.

10. All the principal diamond mining areas - Manowah, Pangumah-Tongoh Field and Koidu-Sefadu are now in Government hands for the first time since re-hired junta troops switched to the RUF/AFRC alliance. The gunships have caused a heavy toll on rebels.

11. The Republic of Ukraine is reported to have cut-off weapons deliveries to Burkina Faso because of persistent Burkina Faso transshipments of those weapons to Charles Taylor of Liberia in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 788 - establishing an arms embargo against Liberia; and United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1171 - establishing an arms embargo against non-governmental entities in Sierra Leone.

12. President Compoare of Burkina Faso is an in-law of President Charles Taylor. The marriage, during which Taylor gave the widow of Mr. Aldophus Tolbert to Compoare and in which Sierra Leone was not involved, has proved extremely costly to every day Sierra Leone civilians. Tolbert was one of the 13 Liberian leaders executed by Sergeant Major Samuel Doe in a beach in Monrovia in 1980 as part of Doe's coup.

13. The United Nations has upgraded the security situation in Sierra Leone from an unsafe Level 5 to an acceptable Level 3. Under level 3, all UN personnel are now required to relocate to Freetown from Conakry.

14. The 7 PM to 6 AM nationwide Curfew has now been cut back to 7 PM to 7 AM. Repeat curfew violators are sanctioned. In Kenema District, repeat violators are sent to Segbewema to help properly bury dead rebels or to other sanitation detail.

15. Former junta troops who were rehired into the new Sierra Leone Army by ECOMOG beginning in June 1998, as a purported step towards "national reconciliation" despite widespread public opposition; and who were assigned to Kono and Bombali Districts under ECOMOG Command; and further who in November and December last year again turned their guns and machetes against ECOMOG and switched sides to the rebels at the request of Charles Taylor of Liberia, are reported to have begun dismantling their weapons and have approached General Maxwell Khobe for possible amnesty and employment.

16. Gen. Khobe is the Nigerian Commander of the new Sierra Leone Army who pressed the elected government into rehiring junta troops last Summer. Earlier Khobe was the ECOMOG Commander who evicted the AFRC junta from Freetown in February 1998. The re-hired junta troops are still occupying a dwindling portion of the diamond mining fields and the provincial capital of Makeni, oppressing innocent people by stealing their food, flogging them, cutting off various body parts of their victims, executing some, raping girls and abducting children for sexual, domestic and military servitude.

17. The United State House of Representatives, International Relations Committee, will shortly consider a pro-peace resolution on Sierra Leone. The resolution under consideration will name Burkina Faso and Liberia as officious intermeddlers in the violence in Sierra Leone on the side of the RUF. The said Resolution recently passed the House Africa Affairs Sub-Committee headed by Congressman Ed Royce of California. Congressman Donald Payne of Newark, NJ again opposed the Resolution. Congressman Payne's political operative in his home district of Essex County, NJ, a Mr. Belozi Harvey, doubles as Charles Taylor's Special Envoy to the United States.

18. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah is continuing a week-long visit to the Peoples Republic of China. President Kabbah is seeking Chinese help to modernize Sierra Leone agriculture, especially food production. Among others traveling with President Kabbah is Dr. Harry Will, Minister of Education.

For further information or comments, please contact the Embassy's First Secretary at the above phone and/or fax numbers.

Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Press Release
17 June 1999

EMBASSY OF SIERRA LEONE
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Washington, D.C. 20009

PRESS RELEASE Re: The Lome Peace Talks
June 17, 1999

The elected President and Parliament of Sierra Leone have categorically rejected the Revolutionary United Front ("RUF") - Armed Forces Revolutionary Council ("AFRC") alliance's demand for a 4-year interim Administration in which their representatives will hold Senior Cabinet positions and other high public offices. The government's position was communicated to the international mediator group in Lome, Togo early yesterday morning after Sierra Leone's 5-Party Parliament voted to reject power-sharing and any other arrangement not in conformity with the strictures of the country's Constitution.

The response of the rebel alliance to Sierra Leone's rejection of any type of interim government power sharing arrangement in which the RUF\AFRC would name their own ministers and other officials is unknown.

On Tuesday, June 15, President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah referred to Parliament the RUF\AFRC alliance's proposal for power-sharing. The rebel proposal called for four cabinet ministers, four deputy ministers and the chief executive positions of all revenue-generating Government-owned corporations and departments, such as Customs. After a measured debate, Parliament voted unanimously to reject any interim government power-sharing arrangement with the RUF\AFRC rebels.

In rejecting RUF/AFRC notions of power sharing, Parliament made it clear that they are sending a message to wrongdoers that committing atrocities against one's compatriots is not the proper approach to give vent to one's lust for money and/or power or to introduce badly needed reforms in the country.

Further, ordinary citizens are aware that the RUF/AFRC rebels are in reality nothing but baby-eating cannibals; cocaine-fortified rapists; cold-blooded executioners; trigger-happy armed robbers; large scale arsonists of homes and of religious, educational and business premises and diamond smugglers manipulated from abroad. Rebels are also torturers of unarmed civilians - thousands of whose limbs, lips, ears, noses, fingers and toes have been hacked or sliced off or eyes gouged out by the RUF\AFRC rebels in an attempt to impose their will on a resisting but unarmed population through heinous terror.

Instead of a 4-year interim government and power-sharing at the Cabinet level, the elected government has offered to appoint rebel nominees to the committees, commissions and boards to be established under the peace agreement. Further, rebels would be granted a general amnesty from criminal prosecution but would be liable in civil law to individual victims of rebel wrongdoing. Additionally, the government would assist demobilized rebels to integrate into civil society. Assisting perpetrators of heinous crimes to co-exist with their innocent victims will be one of the most daunting tasks confronting the government and people of Sierra Leone in the coming post-war period.

The government has also offered to lift the death sentence on the rebel leader, Cpl. Foday Sankoh, as well as free him from prison as part of an overall peace process. Sankoh is presently on furlough from prison to that he could participate in the on-going Lome Peace Talks. His appeal of his sentence for treason is pending at the Court of Appeals.

CITIZENS POSITION ON POWER SHARING

Sierra Leone's civil society is vehemently opposed to any peace agreement that would allow the RUF/AFRC rebels to gain political office or profit from their extensive wrongdoing against innocent, unarmed civilians, especially women and children, and their valued institutions. Civil society leaders have called a nation-wide, home sit-down, general strike for today to protest any consideration of rebel power sharing proposal. All offices, shops, markets, schools and colleges have been asked to shut down and vehicles of all types requested to stay off the nation's streets and highways. Reports from Freetown indicate that citizens' support for the strike is total.

Women and their children were especially targeted for special brutal treatment by the rebels because Sierra Leone women were in the forefront of the pro-democracy movement that swept the country during the mid-nineties and which led to the election of President Kabbah and the present 5-Party Parliament. The RUF/AFRC made a specialty of abducting women and children for sexual, domestic and military servitude. They are still holding nearly 3,000 teenagers/young adults and have refused to release them despite the agreement to do so under the cease-fire negotiated by the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Sierra Leone civilians believe that requiring their elected government to share power with the RUF/AFRC tormenters would be the equivalent of requiring the Kosovans to share power with indicted war criminals, such as Mr. Zelkpl (Arkan) Raznatovic and his goons. Civilians insist that the proper way for any group to gain political power in their country is through free and fair elections. The RUF was invited to participate in the 1996 democratic elections but refused and unsuccessfully attempted to sabotage them.

Meanwhile, the RUF/AFRC's contention that it holds 80% of our territory is without merit. ECOMOG/CDF forces now hold the entire Western Area, Southern Province and Kenema District; nine-tenths of Kono, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Port Loko and Kambia Districts and two-thirds of Kailahun District. Thus, it is ECOMOG that is holding 85% of the country.

This Embassy calls upon all men and women of goodwill to support the citizens of Sierra Leone in their painful quest for peace with justice and social progress.