

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Friday, May 14, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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On motion of concurrent hearing of evidence...

Trials chamber dismisses case

By Tamba Borbor
The Trials Chamber of the Special Court presided over by Judge Bankole Thompson has dismissed a motion filed by the Prosecution concerning concurrent hearing of evidence. In

a motion filed by the Prosecution on 30 April 2004 against Special Court indictees- Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Buzzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu alias 'Five-five', the Prosecution requested the Trials

Chamber to order pursuant to Rule 48(C) of the Rules, a concurrent hearing of witnesses common to both the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) case and that of the Armed Forces

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Special Court Judges of the Trials Chamber



From Front Page

Revolutionary Council (AFRC) on the basis that all accused therein were separately indicted and subsequently joined in two separate trials and are all accused of crimes committed in the course of the same transaction. Furthermore, the Prosecution submitted that that concurrent hearing of evidence common to these two cases will promote the right of each of the six accused persons thereof to a fair and expeditious trial and advance judicial economy, consistency in jurisprudence and the credibility of the judicial process. Moreover, it contends that if the same Judge were to assess twice the credibility of the testimony of common witness, if rendered separately in each of the two separate trials, their second assessment of such witness might appear to be influenced by the first assessment; adding that in the case of the establishment of a second Trials Chamber, with a different bench of Judges to

sit on the trials, these Judges will hence hear essentially the same evidence as the first, but may nevertheless render contradictory or inconsistent decisions regarding the credibility and weight of the same evidence adduced by the same common witness in the other trials. Continuing, the Prosecution argues that if a concurrent hearing of the testimony of common witness is granted, the Trials Chamber will avoid the possibility of having witnesses appearing in one trial but, due to security related and other reasons, then becoming unable or unwilling to appear in the subsequent trial, and also reduce the costs, logistical arrangements and security risks for such witnesses and substantially minimise the overall length of the trials. In addition, consistent to the submissions during the status conference held on 8th March this year, the Prosecution reiterates that as many as 56% of the current total

number of 267 witnesses it intends to call in each trial are common to both the RUF and AFRC cases and that on the assumption that the current number of witnesses will remain the same, the Prosecution hence estimates that about 150 witnesses will then end up testifying twice. In response, the Defence for Santigie Kanu states that the Trial Chamber should dismiss the motion essentially on the basis that it infringes the object and purpose of the Joinder Decision, which found, according to the Defence, the spectre of a potential conflict in defence strategies and the consequential possibility of mutual recriminations derogating from the rights of each accused in the context of separate trials; noting that granting the motion will essentially have indirect result of a Joinder of the RUF case and AFRC case in a single trial. The Defence further contends that the argument referred to in the

Joinder Decision does not solely apply to joint trials and also forms part of the Defence's strategy rather than only to the prosecutorial strategy, regardless of whether the evidence is limited to crime-base witnesses; specifically asserting that a severance of the hearing of a particular witness, on the one hand and the concurrent presentation on the other, are judicially not interchangeable; contending that the Prosecution's suggestion provides no sufficient safeguards against the

prejudice to the rights of the accused. The Defence for Brima Buzzy Kamara alias 'Five-five' in its response filed on 6th May 2004, it substantially alleges an attempt by the to join the RUF case and that of the AFRC as one joint trial; an issue already disposed of by the Trials Chamber in its Joinder Decision and, further, in the subsequent denial of leave requested by the Prosecution to appeal such decision. The Trials Chamber in its ruling stated that granting the Order sought by the Prosecution

would amount to approbating and reprobating at the same. Hence, we hold and accordingly rule that the notion of 'common trunk' or 'concurrent hearing of evidence' particularly in light of the amount of evidence sought to be introduced through such a process and in the context of the Chamber's Joinder Decision, is conceptually irreconcilable with the notion of 'Joint separate trials'; the Trials Chamber maintained and based on the forgoing deliberation, Judge Bankole Thompson on behalf of the Trials Chamber pursuant to Rule 48 (C), hereby deny the motion and accordingly dismissed it.

Awoko
Friday May 14, 2004



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Singapore freezes Taylor out

14/05/2004 10:43 - (SA)

Singapore - Singapore is moving to freeze any assets in the city state belonging to the former president of Liberia, a newspaper reported on Friday.

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Ousted dictator Charles Taylor is widely seen as the mastermind behind years of conflict in West Africa. He has been accused of financing Sierra Leone's rebel guerrillas and profiting from the illegal sale of diamonds.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) would neither confirm nor deny whether it had received any information from banks about funds or suspicious transactions linked to the deposed dictator, who is now in exile in Nigeria.

Regulations on the seizure of Taylor's assets came into effect last Friday and apply to all financial institutions in Singapore.

They are in line with a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution passed in March calling on all countries to freeze assets belonging to Taylor and his immediate family members.

"We will generally not comment or provide information on any specific response received following the issuance of regulations, since this may compromise any follow-up action which might have to be taken by the UN or local agencies," the MAS said in a statement to the Streets newspaper, a free commuter tabloid.

A UN report in 2001 linked Singapore-registered Borneo Jaya Pte Ltd to weapons smuggling in Liberia, according to Streets.

Another Singapore-registered company, Natuna Holdings, was named by UK-based environmental protection group Global Witness as being linked to Liberian timber interests.

"Singapore takes a very serious view of any violations of UNSC sanctions and is committed to the implementations of UNSC decisions," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Streets.

The ministry said it has been in contact with the Panel of Experts established by the



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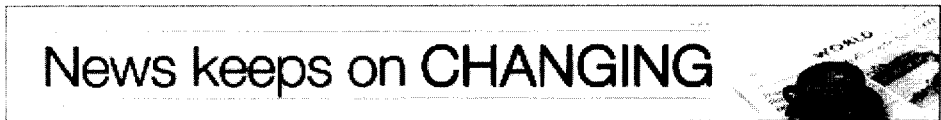
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Liberia Sanctions Committee and the Sanctions Committee itself.

"We have yet to receive sufficiently specific information to assist in our investigations," the ministry said. - Sapa-dpa

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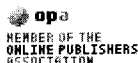
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AWOKO

Friday May 14, 2004

Amputees and War-Wounded demand \$100 million reparation

Amputees and War-Wounded have yesterday demanded the sum of \$100 million as reparation package for all they went through during the ten-year-old civil war. The demand was made at a Press Briefing organised by the Amputees and War-Wounded

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From Front Page

Association in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission Working Group. Oswald Hanciles, the Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs and Tax Education at the National Revenue Authority (NRA) in his opening remarks as Chairman of the occasion stated that ever since the history of war, at no particular time did amputation of arms and limbs of the citizenry; even going to the extent of betting the sex of unborn babies in their mother's womb, splitting it open to confirm the bet, take place. He also stated that the advent of the ten-years mayhem and the wickedness perpetrated drew wide attention of the global media. As a result, Sierra Leone he stated has dragged the largest peace-keeping troops in the country partly because of the of the pity the country had gained which accounts for the developmental funding from donors which forms about 60 % of the country's budget. Mr. Oswald however stated

that the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) launched a Trust Fund and that this fund was to prevent the amputees from begging in the streets. The Board of Trustees put in place he went on, disappointed the amputees as they only met twice and that in the last meeting, Reverend Bernier of the Lutheran Church, also a member of the Board, promised to refund \$50,000 to the Trust Fund, which he failed to do. He reiterated that such acts of taking advantage with impunity are one of the factors that gave rise to our ten-years madness; paraphrasing a popular verse in the Bible stating: "the stone which the builder refused will become the corner stone." Furthermore, he stated that it is high time to put an end to this culture of silence. The National chairman of the Sierra Leone Amputee and War-Wounded Association- Alhaji Jusu Jaka stated that "the war has ended and the ex-combatants have been disarmed and millions of dollars was spent on the

DDR programme, but no similar institution has been formed to handle victims of the war. Victims have received very little from local and international people with conscience." He further mentioned that it appears that the Government and other NGOs had push them to a small corner; forgetting about them. One thing, which is typical of Sierra Leoneans he stated, "is that we forget too easily. Already, it appears as if people have forgotten about the rebel war and what caused the war." speaking at the occasion, the Chairman of the TR Working Group and Executive Director of Forum of Conscience stated that they would do their best to make the concerns of the amputee known in the national agenda; adding that "reconciliation aims to break the cycle of violence and promotes peaceful coexistence" and that in order to achieve this, acts of revenge by victims of post-oppression should be stopped or done more positively.

Friday May 14, 2004

Amputees Call For Justice

The chairman of the Amputees War Wounded Association Alhaji Jusu Jaka has called for justice and fairness in the treatment of

their issues to avoid a relapse into war. Speaking at a press conference at Stop Press Alhaji Jusu Jaka

said that they have been used as spectacles of sorrow by associations to rally funds and later

Cont. Page 2

From Front Page

dumped and forgotten by these groups and individuals. He revealed that they have formed an association of amputees that encompasses amputees all over the country to champion their cause locally and internationally.

The chairman said that immediately after their amputation they received massive attention from the global media, but over a long period of time now, that attention has waned. He called on the government and the international community to address their plight and make them feel human again. Jaka said that living conditions are difficult for even the able bodied men let alone they as amputees. "If

things are difficult for even those with two hands and feet, what about us whose hands and limbs have been cut off, he asked. The amputees chairman pleaded with government to address their plight if they are to avoid a relapse into war.

Earlier the chairman of the occasion Mr. Oswald Hanciles delved into the history of the country's ten years war with special emphasis on injustice as a root cause of the war. Mr. Hanciles went into pains to explain the problem between him and the amputees on the one hand and Reverend (now Bishop) Tom Barnett and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone on the other hand. He said that it was disappointing for a church to use the

amputees as a conduit to garner funds and then divert the funds to other purposes. Mr. Hanciles expressed hope that this abuse of human rights would stop. He called on all and sundry to join the fight against the misuse of the amputees and to bring hope back to them.

Other speakers included Mr. John Caulker of Forum of Conscience and Mr. Mohamed Massaquoi who introduced the chairman. Important personalities like Father Maurizio Boa of the St. Joseph Fathers graced the occasion. It should be borne in mind that Father Maurizio Boa has been playing a pivotal role in the lives of amputees. His Missionary Friends of Sierra Leone has done remarkable well for the amputees.

The Independent

Friday May 14, 2004

PLP: Johnny Paul Still Our Leader

The Acting Leader of the Peace and Liberation Party (PLP), Rtd. Capt. Abdul Rahman Kamara insists that the fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma is still the leader of the party.

Johnny Paul Koroma is wanted by the Special Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by renegade soldiers during the war years. Abdul Rahman

Kamara claims that in the absence of Johnny Paul he acts for him. This statement is in apparent reference to the Secretary general of the party Bob Kandeh, who has also claimed to

be the leader of party. According to Skyy Radio Abdul Rahman says he is waiting till after the local government elections, after which the party will be restructured.



Johnny Paul

This statement indicates that some arm-twisting will take place within the party leadership so as to gain full control of the party.

Presentation

By Mohamed Gibril Sesay

The Press and Party politics of the Post Independence Period: 1961 - 1978

Independent Sierra Leone up to the promulgation of the one party in 1978 could be divided, in terms of the relationship between the state, political parties and the media, into four distinct periods. There was the era of Sir Milton Margai, that of Sir Albert Margai, and the regimes of Brigadier Andrew Juxon Smith and Dr. Siaka Stevens. Also in the period under review we could talk about three media categories. These were state media, party media and independent media houses. The state had both print and electronic media houses: there was the Sierra Leone Daily Mail and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service. The two major political parties had their own newspapers but no electronic media. The Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) owned 'The People' and the All Peoples Congress (APC) 'We Yone.' There were also some independent newspapers with no formal allegiance to any political party. These included 'Think', 'Sainebo', 'Snekkpendeh' and 'The African Vanguard.'

We will make our assessment of the various regimes on the basis of their handling of the media over contentious issues of the day. This is based on the conviction that a person or regime's worth best comes out not when things are bright and rosy, but when times are brittle and racy. Sir Milton Margai ran a slow pace consensus seeking regime, and there were hardly any issue that this nosey profession of ours found contentious enough to holler about; in essence we were bereft of opportunities to test the pulse of the regime's attitude towards the media.

Many such opportunities, however, presented themselves during the fast pacing regime of Sir Albert Margai. Contentious issues of the three tumultuous years of Lawyer Margai's premiership included corruption in high places; the one party attempt and the promulgation of a Republican constitution. Sir Albert Margai wanted these contentious issues swept under the carpet, or discussed in ways that but mimic his preferences. But the press refused. He promulgated laws to scare the press off these issues; he instituted court proceedings against editors who would not back off these issues. Ultimately, however, Sir Albert Margai was restrained by the courts, and later the electorate which voted him out of office in 1967. This shows that Sir Albert Margai was a giant at dreaming of ways to muzzle the press; but a dwarf in practically muzzling the press.

The regime of Brigadier Juxon Smith practically banned the publication of independent news. The only operating media houses were the government owned Sierra Leone Daily Mail and the SLBS.

But whereas Sir Albert Margai was an ineffective implementor of his big dreams of muzzling the press, Dr. Siaka Stevens was brutally effecting at silencing the press. He hijacked the press muzzling dreams of Sir Albert Margai and implemented them

with ferocious efficiency. One of the reasons Dr. Mohamed Sorie Foma gave for resigning, as the APC Minister of Finance in 1970 was the looting and burning down of the 'Freedom Press' during which a child was killed. In 1972, the opposition 'The People' newspaper was ransacked; in 1973, the editor of another opposition newspaper 'Unity' was detained without trial until after the general elections of that year. We see here a tactic different from that of Sir Albert Margai. Whilst the latter preferred judicial harassment of journalists, Dr. Stevens had a preference for the quicker physical brutalization of press people. One apologist of the politics of those days referred to this strategy as 'vigorous persuasion.'

But why was Dr. Stevens a giant at practically muzzling the press and Sir

Albert Margai but a dwarf? Answering this question may warrant us to talk about what political theorists now call institutions of vertical and horizontal accountability.

Institutions of horizontal accountability are state level bodies that promote answerability and performance of other state level institutions and at the same time prevent them from exceeding their bounds and abusing their powers.

Such bodies, for example include the judiciary, the office of the Auditor General, and the legislature. Institutions of vertical accountability on the other hand are non-state bodies that promote, as mentioned above answerability and performance. In less technical language, they are civil society groups. The independent media is an institution of vertical

accountability: it uses pages and broadcasting frequencies to promote answerability. But in doing this, it relies on the support and protection of other institutions of accountability. Where there is a failure to garner this support, it becomes the single broomstick that could be easily broken.

Other institutions of accountability, both horizontal and vertical stood by the press during the Sir Albert Margai Era; hence the fourth estate of the realm was able to withstand the onslaught against it.

In Dr. Stevens Era, these institutions did not object when his regime started stepping on their toes; so he kicked their calves, then their thighs, groins and eventually their heads when the One Party was promulgated in 1978.

Concord Times

Friday May 14, 2004



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Secretary-General Concludes West Africa Visit

Commonwealth News and Information Service (London)

NEWS

May 12, 2004

Posted to the web May 13, 2004

London

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon concluded the final leg of his West Africa trip in Ghana on Monday, 10 May 2004, by announcing two new scholarships to Cambridge University, UK, for Ghanaian students. The scholarships, which will be funded by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will commence in October 2005. They will enable students to undertake a one-year postgraduate course in subjects relevant to the needs of their country, with preference for International Relations. On completion, work placements will be arranged at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

During his trip the Secretary-General visited The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Ghana where he had separate meetings with the leaders of the three countries - respectively President Yahya Jammeh, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and President John Kufuor. He briefed the Presidents on steps taken to implement the decisions made at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2003.

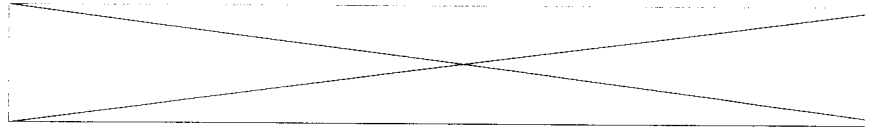
In The Gambia, Mr McKinnon met senior ministers, addressed a cross-party group of parliamentarians and addressed schoolchildren. He also visited the Special Court in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown.

While in Sierra Leone the Secretary-General commissioned the Kamcashew agro-processing plant which is funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and the UK's Department for International Development. The processing plant in Kambia, north of the country, will process cashew nuts grown by members of the Magbema Cashew Farmers Association. Many of the Kambia farmers had been unable to harvest their cashew trees for a decade during Sierra Leone's civil war. Mr McKinnon also reviewed the Commonwealth post-conflict technical assistance programme in the country.

In Ghana, the Secretary-General attended the Adae Kese festival to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the coronation of the Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. The ceremony

was attended by President Kufuor and President Tejan Kabbah, among other dignitaries.
Around 100,000 participants and spectators attended the festival.

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We Don't Have Guns Anywhere - Ex-combatants Tell First Lady

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

May 13, 2004

Posted to the web May 13, 2004

By Fred Mills
Monrovia

Former combatants at one of the many cantonment centers have told Liberia's interim First Lady, Mrs. Rosalyn Bryant that they have given the guns in their possession to the UNMIL Peacekeepers.

The fighters say as far as they are concerned, they do not have guns anywhere in the country.

The ex-fighters told Madam Bryant, "We are fed-up with toting guns for somebody. It is the guns that put us backward." The Liberian First Lady had gone to the camp to see for herself developments at the camp.

It is also part of her efforts to promote the ongoing disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration (DDRR) exercise.

Speaking on behalf of her colleagues, a female fighter thanked the first lady and her entourage for the visit. She urged Liberians and women in particular to put the past behind them and forge ahead for the common good of the country.

She said: "It is time for peace and reconciliation. Each of us, no matter what we passed through must forget the past and befriend one another." In her statement to the ex-soldiers, Madam Bryant praised the soldiers for giving their guns to the peacekeepers in order to make Liberia peaceful and stable.

Besides praising them, she also warned them not to hold guns again because, according to her, it will only deny them any good future.

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Terms: **new eu members flouting controls on weapons trade** ([Edit Search](#))

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The Guardian (London) May 14, 2004

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The Guardian (London)

May 14, 2004

SECTION: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

LENGTH: 499 words

HEADLINE: New **EU members flouting** controls on **weapons trade**, says Amnesty

BYLINE: Ewen MacAskill Diplomatic editor

BODY:

The entry of east European countries into the **EU** highlights how "dangerously ineffective" regulations on the arms **trade** are, according to a report published today by Amnesty International.

Amnesty said many of these countries had a poor record of selling **weapons** to countries engaged in conflict or internal repression.

Kate Allen, the organisation's UK director, said: "**EU** expansion means that more arms than ever are pouring out of the **EU**. Yet weak controls mean they are getting into the hands of those who torture and kill civilians."

With the accession of 10 countries on May 1, the **EU** almost rivals the US arms industry. It now has 400 small arms companies operating in 23 countries. Of the new **members**, the Czech Republic has 26 **weapons** companies, Poland 22, Slovakia 11 and Slovenia six.

The 104-page report, *Undermining Global Security: The European Union's Arms Exports*, says: "Given the weaknesses in the **EU** code and related **EU** mechanisms, the large number of new states that have joined the **EU** at the same time - a number of whom have a record of weak arms export control - has increased the risk that future interpretation and implementation of relevant **EU** mechanisms will be watered down."

The new **members** are bound by an **EU** code of conduct agreed in 1998, which set out "high common standards" for the management of the arms **trade**.

It banned "the export of equipment which might be used for internal repression or international aggression or contribute to regional instability". The report shows that these regulations have been flouted frequently by the new **member** states.

A review of the code was announced last year and a meeting is scheduled today of the **EU** arms control committee. But Amnesty said the review would be a "whitewash" which would keep loopholes allowing gun runners to continue to export **weapons** to conflict zones and to countries which ignore human rights .

The report catalogues a series of arms export abuses by the new **members**.

It said Slovakia "has been a point of origin or transit for arms deliveries to human rights abusers and countries in violent conflicts, as well as to suspected illegal destinations," and that "the airport in Bratislava, in particular, has been a hub for illegitimate arms shipments." It said Slovakia sent 1,000 AK-47s to Liberia, which was under a UN embargo, in November 2000 via Uganda.

Slovakia was also responsible for the sale of surplus tanks, artillery systems and combat planes to the Angolan military while they were committing human rights violations during a civil war.

The Czech and Polish governments are accused of selling **weapons** to governments such as Yemen which have a history of diverting **weapons** to third countries.

As well as criticising the new **members**, the report notes that France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the UK between them account for one-third of the world's arms deals and they too have been engaged in dubious deals.

guardian.co.uk/armstrade

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Africa News May 13, 2004 Thursday

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Africa News

May 13, 2004 Thursday

LENGTH: 544 words

**HEADLINE: Cameroon;
Experts Seek Ways of Limiting Conflicts**

BYLINE: Cameroon Tribune

BODY:

Defence Officials from the Sub-region continue sharing experiences on mediation and peacekeeping in Central Africa.

The ongoing seminar on enhancing **conflict** management in Central Africa entered the second day last Tuesday, with discussions focused on the themes "mediation and peacemaking in Central Africa " and "recent experience with peacekeeping". The officials of the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies who organised the Yaounde seminar, from every indication opt to work in a serene and calm atmosphere. It is for this reason that the seminar is holding under tight security. Access into the hall is restricted to accredited pressmen.

Discussions entered high gear on Tuesday. With regard to mediation and peacemaking, **experts**, senior defence officers from Central Africa, senior European officials and US government leaders working in African affairs grappled with a series of key questions. In their reflection, they sought to know whether there was a preferred model for peacemaking in Central Africa; how elements of peacemaking such as diplomacy, military force, moral suasion, and economic incentives could reinforce each other to ensure desired outcomes and how to ensure that women's issues are adequately reflected in peacemaking efforts in the sub-region. The **experts** equally sought to know whether colonial masters have a unique role to play as honest brokers during the **conflict** mediation process; whether participatory mediation leads to more workable and effective peace deal; and the mechanisms regional and international stakeholders should employ to apply moral suasion more effectively.

As for discussions on the recent experience with peacekeeping in Central Africa, various **conflict**-ridden countries were taken into consideration. As stated by **Cameroon's** Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge, during the opening ceremony, eight out of the eleven countries of the Sub-region had known the ravages and woes of wars and civil strife. Peacekeeping efforts had been and are being pursued in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Angola. Besides the experiences in the Central African sub-region, the participants also took into consideration the peacekeeping experiences in Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone , in the West African region. Participants focused on the lessons drawn from the peacekeeping efforts in terms of timeliness, adequacy and human rights. They sought to know whether African countries are prepared to assume increased responsibility for peacekeeping in the sub-region; how the international community could become more closely involved in peacekeeping in the sub-region, whether the existing training programmes for Africa's peacekeepers were adequate and effective, how the deployment of peacekeepers should be done. Taking West Africa as an example, they reflected on the influence of a strong

regional organisation like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in promoting peacekeeping efforts there. They conjectured if a similar organisation in the Central African sub-region would facilitate the process.

Discussions yesterday focused on translating peace deals into tangible gains. Today, they will explore the key elements of sustainable regional strategy.

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