

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:

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Awoko

Motto: Service To The People

Established: 1998

Vol. 7 No 196

October 19, 2004

INDEPENDENT

At Special Court...

Junior Lion reveals how Freetown was invaded

By Brima Sanura

George Johnson aka Junior Lion, who has been testifying at the Special Court under the witness protective code TF1-167, has revealed how they invaded Freetown on January 6th

Junior Lion who failed to appear in court last week on the pretext that he was sick, decided to testify openly because as he puts it, "My identity is already in the public domain and I am not afraid since I am telling

the truth". Justice Bankole Thompson after a close session gave a ruling that Junior Lion should testify openly. Junior Lion stated that their movement started from Krubolla (Koinadugu District) through several towns and

villages to Newton where they had a meeting, which was chaired by the late Captain S.A.J Musa. He said that SAJ Musa had about 800 men under his control who were mostly members of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces. He disclosed that at this Newton meeting they were instructed by SAJ Musa that civilians should not be abducted until they reached Freetown. He went on to say that they

reached Waterloo sometime in December and headed for Benguema, where there was a heavy battle between the SLA, ECOMOG and the Kamajors, and lasted for six hours. After overcoming ECOMOG and the Kamajors, he said, they headed for the ammunition dump where they collected all the ammunitions, some of which they decided to

dispose of. Junior Lions further narrated that it was during this process that some of the ammunition exploded and killed SAJ Musa. He went on to tell the Court that after SAJ's death, Alex Tamba Brima took over as commander and was deputized by Ibrahim Bazy Kamara. The witness further disclosed that when Alex Tamba Brima sent a radio message to Sam Bockarie in Kailahun informing him

Contd. Page 2

Tuesday October 19, 2004

AWOKO NEWSPAPER

Page 2

Junior Lion reveals how Freetown was invaded

From Front Page

about SAJ's death and requested for re-enforcement from the RUF. He indicated that Sam Bockarie refused saying that it was a ploy to reduce their number. The witness explained that by that time Dennis Mingo alias 'Superman' was heading to attack Makeni, while they moved from Benguema, via the hills to attack Hastings. Junior Lion in his narrative further said, when they first attacked Hastings about 20 Nigerian soldiers were killed and on their second attack on Hastings

they divided and sent two battalions with arms and ammunitions to pass through Orogu Bridge to Freetown. He went on to say that they later held a meeting at Orogu (Allen Town) which was attended by senior and mid level commanders. Upon arrival in Freetown, he revealed that they were instructed by Alex Tamba Brima to kill all Nigerian soldiers and civilians. Police personnel and SLPP supporters. The military plan, he said, was a twin track

approach to use the Old Road to Wellington, divide into two and head for Uppun. At Up Gun they encountered stiff resistance from ECOMOG, which they later overcame, while the 4th battalion was sent to take over the Queen Elizabeth II Quay. After that they then headed for the East End Police station, which they burnt down before coming to State House. By this time the RUF had captured Makeni and Lunsar and were pushing to Freetown, he said. On their arrival at State

House at around 7:30 a.m, Alex Tamba Brima instructed them to break open Pademba Road Prisons. On arrival at the Prison's they blasted the door open with an RPG and instructed the inmates to report at State House and thereafter headed for Brookfields Hotel, which was the CDF headquarters. He told the Court that they were then reinforced by

the 4th battalion to advance to Congo Cross Bridge, but were beaten back by ECOMOG. Efforts to penetrate both Congo Cross and Congo Town bridges failed as they were being hit hard by ECOMOG. We then decided to retreat to State House where Alex Tamba Brima informed Sam Bockarie through a Radio message of their retreat. Sam Bockarie then

instructed us that we should burn down all public buildings while we retreat to Hastings Village for safety. He told the court that they further received another instructions from Sam Bockarie to hand over all politicians who were with them including late President Joseph Momoh, Victor Foe, Paramount Chief Alimamy Dura and all Senior Military personnel to Issa Sesay in Makeni.

AFRC's Junior Lion Now Testifies Openly

The UN-backed war crimes Special Court for Sierra Leone, yesterday ruled that "the application of the witness (Junior Lion) to testify openly is granted." The screen behind him should be removed and the voice distortion mechanism eliminated! But all other protective measures are to remain in place".

This ruling read out in court by Sierra Leonean Judge, Justice Bankole Thompson followed an application made by the second prosecution witness during the current session of the RUF joint trial.

"I want to testify openly. Since last Thursday 14th October when I testified, everybody knew through a

was. I believe I am saying the truth. I do not want to hide myself. I am suggesting that the protective measures put in place for me, be lifted. I do not want a screen behind me and my voice distorted." Junior Lion said.

This witness was testifying earlier under the pseudonym TFI-167. The main thrust of his evidence was when the AFRC came to power from May 25 1997, to February 1998 and called on the RUF to join them until they were kicked out by ECOMOG.

After the protective veil of the witness was removed, his name was released to the public gallery as George Johnson, alias 'Junior Lion', a one-time vigilante in the AFRC junta.

He testified among other



David Crane: Chief Prosecutor

ber about a meeting held at Newton chaired by the late SAJ Musa, as operational Commander, and the planning of the January 6th 1999 invasion of Freetown. When they got to Benguema Mili-

Junta forces had captured earlier, there was an explosion at the army depot which killed SAJ Musa.

After the death of SAJ Musa, Alex Tamba Brima

became the Field Commander and Ibrahim Bazy Koroma became the deputy--the second and third AFRC indictees.

The witness further testified that on their way to Freetown, they attacked Hastings, where more than 20 Nigerian troops were killed. At a meeting held at Kossoh town January 4 1999, orders were given by the field commander for Nigerian civilians, Policemen and women, and all collaborators of the SLPP, to be targeted and killed.

"In our January 1999 military plan for approaching Freetown, we penetrated ECOMOG forces, over ran them and took over

their positions in the East of Freetown on to State House". On 5th January 1999, we started moving from Orogu Bridge at night and ended up at State House at 7:30 in the morning of January 6.

ECOMOG troops only resisted us at Up Gun roundabout. I took part in the opening of Pademba Road Prisons after which I went back to State House. In front of State House I saw a lot of corpses-- about 30 dead bodies - most were Nigerian soldiers. Civilians and police men were also killed as they were targeted people. The hearing continues.

Christina M. Minter

Tuesday October 18th 2004

HOW 2000 SOLDIERS INVADDED FREETOWN

By Mohamed Mansaray

A Special Court prosecution witness in the on-going trial of RUF indictees, George Johnson alias Junior Lion told the court yesterday that over 2000 combatants (including the witness himself), mainly from the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) invaded Freetown on January 6, 1999.

Junior Lion Testifies

Prosecution lawyer Peter Harrison at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown.

The witness told the court that they were initially led by Cpt. SAJ Musa but was killed at Benguema following an explosion from the ammunition dump. Mr. Johnson testified that Alex Tamba 'Gullit' later replaced SAJ Musa and his deputy was Ibrahim Bazzy Kamara alias Bomb blast.

"From Benguema, we went to the Peninsula hills, then to Hastings, Orugu Bridge, to Orugu Village and then we came to Freetown," the witness told the court adding that the troops came from Masofina and Kobola in the north-eastern regions of the country.

"When we arrived on the outskirts of Freetown two battalions used the old road and another two battalions used the new road and we all met Up-Gun Tum Table," Mr. Johnson told the court. He testified that the invading forces overpowered ECOMOG troops who were based in that location. "The sixth battalion was deployed at Queen Elizabeth II Quay immediately," he further told the court and added that some soldiers used the Kissy Road whilst the others used Fourah Bay Road and converged at the Eastend Police Station.

The witness went on to tell the court that from the Eastend Police some soldiers also used Sani Abacha Street to PZ while others used Goderich Street to State house. "We deployed two battalions at State House which was our headquarters," the witness said, adding that Alex Tamba Brima gave instructions to open Pademba Prison. "The main door of the prison was blasted by RPG bomb and all prisoners were asked to go to State House," the witness further testified and went on to tell the court that from Pademba Prison they proceeded to SLBS and then to the Kamajor headquarters at Brookfields Hotel. The witness further informed the court that they also visited Youyi Building before they proceeded to Kingtom Police Barracks.

"We started burning houses when we lost Kingtom, Ascension Town and Kingharman Road Grounds due to ECOMOG bombardment," the witness said. "Santigie Kanu alias 55 gave order to amputate civilians," he said.

The witness further quoted Sam Bockarie as ordering Gullit to take along high ranking officials who were abducted in Freetown including late ex-president Joseph Saidu Momoh, Steve Lio, Victor Foh and Chief Dura to be taken to Makoni. Yesterday was the first time the witness testified openly in court. Previously, he had been testifying anonymously. He gave his testimony in English.

Salome Times
Tuesday Dec
18th 2004

Tuesday October 19th, 2004

SALONE TIMES

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DETAINEES' FOOD CHECKED

AT SPECIAL COURT

By Mohamed Mansaray

Journalists were invited at the conference room of the Special Court for Sierra Leone recently to see and have a taste of various food items prepared and served inditees at the court's detention facility.

Detainees including the first CDF accused Samuel Hinga Norman had complained earlier that expired and sub-standard foods are served them and hence unsuitable for human consumption.

Various food samples were displayed in the conference room including large roasted tilapia fish cooked rice with meat soup, fried eggs, juices and snacks among others to be examined and tasted.

Surprisingly however, the greater part of the food samples were consumed by journalists including this reporter and a member of the Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court Davidson Ogunade.

A weekly food menu for the detainees was also circulated among journalists and items on it include bread and luncheon-meat, eggs, sardines, baked beans, rice and *krain krain*, rice and cassava leaves, *tola* with meat or fish, stew green with fried rice, beef/fish/chicken soup,

roast fish, salad with chicken, and a number of snacks among others.

Addressing journalists during the food-testing ceremony, the head of Detention Facility, Barry Wallace refuted the detainees' claim that expired food are prepared for them for consumption. Mr. Wallace said that fresh foods are bought from supermarkets for the detainees, adding that there are four trained and qualified cooks/chefs who prepare the food for the detainees.

The Head of Detention further disclosed that an independent nutritionist would also be examining the foods and that a report would be submitted to the court in respect of the issue.

On medical facilities for detainees, the Head of Detention said that there are two nurses and a full-time medical doctor to respond to the medical needs of detainees and their family members.

The Head of Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court, Allision Cooper described the foods prepared for detainees as good, adding that more information on the issue would be made available to the press shortly.

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M2 Presswire October 18, 2004

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M2 Presswire

October 18, 2004

LENGTH: 3107 words

HEADLINE: UN: Budget Committee recommends \$5.4 million for Commission implementing Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute decision. Page 1 of 2.

BODY:

M2 PRESSWIRE-OCTOBER 18, 2004-UN: Budget Committee recommends \$5.4 million for Commission implementing Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute decision. Page 1 of 2. ©1994-2004 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) this morning recommended that the General Assembly provide some \$5.4 million for United Nations support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, which was established to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the border dispute between those two countries.

By the terms of a draft resolution approved without a vote today (document A/C.5/59/L.3), that amount would be charged against the balance of funds already allocated for special political missions in the regular budget for 2004-2005.

Today's decision was taken following consideration of the Commission's revised requirements for the period from 1 June to 31 December 2004 earlier this week, and represents a reduction of some \$580,700, compared with the \$6 million commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General by Assembly resolution 58/294 last June.

The Commission was established in November 2002 and initial requirements were met, under an ad hoc arrangement, from extrabudgetary resources. As that arrangement was not sustainable, the requirements for the Organization's support to the Mixed Commission were submitted for funding under the regular budget, which would cover technical, logistical and substantive costs. The cost of the demarcation exercise itself, estimated at \$12 million, is to be funded from voluntary contributions.

The Committee also took up the Secretary-General's proposals to provide \$291.6 million for the United Nations Mission in **Sierra Leone** (UNAMSIL) and \$384.4 million for the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

The budgets of the two missions have been presented to the Committee in connection with recent decisions of the Security Council. Last month, that body extended the mandate of UNAMSIL -- previously scheduled to complete the withdrawal of troops by December 2004 -- until 30 June 2005, to further strengthen the capacity of the **Sierra Leone** police and armed forces to maintain security and stability in the country.

The UNOCI, established by the Security Council on 27 February 2004, is mandated to restore normalcy and overall security in that country. The budget provides for the deployment of 200 military observers, 6,040 military contingent personnel (including 120 force headquarters staff officers), 350 civilian police, 387 international staff, 405 national staff (including 18 national officers), and 215 United Nations volunteers.

The representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union, supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to downgrade a number of key posts at UNOCI, including that of the Deputy Special Representative for coordinating humanitarian affairs, in order to establish clear lines of authority, avoid fragmentation and prevent grade inflation.

The African Group, on the other hand, objected on the grounds that the proposed restructuring would effectively diminish the importance given to the humanitarian component of the mission.

The representative of Gabon, who spoke on behalf of the Group, said it was necessary to restore balance between the aims of achieving peace and security and meeting the vital material needs of populations. He recalled that the Secretary-General had himself stated that all conflicts originated in the profound poverty of people, underscoring the importance and relevance of development and humanitarian assistance.

Regarding the **Sierra Leone** Mission, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, welcomed, as did the Advisory Committee, the initiative taken by UNAMSIL in its asset write-off and disposal process, which led to the establishment of an Assets Disposal Group and Asset Disposal and Environmental Protection Unit. That trailblazing initiative had been incorporated into the standard guidelines for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to apply in all missions. At the same time, she expressed concern over the departure of a significant number of well trained staff from UNAMSIL to new missions in the region. Following an accident, which led to the death of 24 UNAMSIL personnel, including 14 Pakistani soldiers, questions were also raised regarding that Mission's safety and security arrangements.

Also today, on the review of the function and reporting procedures of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), several speakers emphasized the importance of strong, effective, and independent internal oversight as fundamental to the sound governance of the United Nations. Canada's representative, also speaking on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that those functions underpinned the efforts to ensure accountability, due diligence, and integrity within the Organization. Both the mandate and efforts of the OIOS had served the Organization well. Of course, action on the findings and implementation of recommendations held the key to real impact, and there was scope for improved arrangements in that respect.

Syria's representative recalled that resolution 54/244, by which the Assembly authorized the current review, contributed to clarifying the role of the OIOS. However, despite the progress following the adoption of that text, there was still room for improvement. Among the remaining challenges, he listed the need to strengthen the Office's investigation and monitoring functions -- two primary mandates of the OIOS not fully implemented -- and avoid duplication with the Board of Auditors. He also drew the Committee's attention to the delays in the issuance of the Office's reports and the problem of implementation of many recommendations, some of which were rejected by the Secretariat.

Statements were also made by representatives of Qatar (on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China), Pakistan and Ghana.

The Committee will begin its consideration of the Board of Auditors reports and the scale of assessments at 10 a.m.

Monday, 18 October.

Background

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) this morning was expected to act on a draft resolution proposing resource requirements for United Nations support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for a seven-month period from 1 June to 31 December 2004 (document A/C.5/59/L.3). (For background, see Press Release GA/AB/3629 of 11 October.) The Committee was also due to continue its discussions on the function and reporting procedures of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), reviewing implementation of two General Assembly resolutions concerning that principal oversight body of the United Nations. (For background, see Press Release GA/AB/3631.)

Also before the Committee were reports on the financing of United Nations missions in **Sierra Leone** and Cote d'Ivoire.

United Nations Mission in **Sierra Leone**

On the United Nations Mission in **Sierra Leone** (UNAMSIL), the Committee was to consider a report of the Secretary-General proposing a revised budget (document A/59/286), as well as a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (document A/59/417), recommending approval of the full \$291.6 million requested for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

Whereas the Security Council had last year endorsed a plan for the drawdown of UNAMSIL, envisaging the complete withdrawal of troops by December 2004, the Security Council last month extended the mandate of UNAMSIL for a further nine months, until 30 June 2005, to further strengthen the capacity of the **Sierra Leone** police and armed forces to maintain security and stability.

The ACABQ states that the drawdown timetable laid out by the Secretary-General in his report of 6 July 2004 (document S/2004/526) remains on track, and that by the end of December 2004 the number of troops would be reduced from 11,500 to about 5,000, with some 1,500 military personnel providing logistical support and a seamless transition to the Mission's residual presence. By the end of February 2005, it is expected that the force strength will be reduced to 3,250 troops and 141 United Nations military observers, with accompanying reductions in civilian staff.

The Advisory Committee commends the Mission's exemplary work on a number of fronts. UNAMSIL's well managed cash position and its signing of all the 69 memorandums of understanding were good practices that Headquarters should seek to replicate in other missions. The ACABQ also praises the Mission for applying ratios based on real, mission-tested costs, and for addressing the Advisory Committee's earlier concerns about asset write-off and disposal. The lessons learned and experience acquired by the Mission have been integrated into guidelines for the environmentally friendly disposal of assets, developed in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), that will become part of the standards applied by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in all missions.

The ACABQ also notes widespread cooperation between UNAMSIL -- the oldest mission in the region -- and other peacekeeping missions in West Africa. Generally, there has been extensive cooperation between the Mission and agencies in the area; however, funding is scarce. A recent United Nations inter-agency appeal yielded only 10 per cent of the funding goal of \$60 million. The ACABQ stresses that a smooth exit strategy should be coordinated by UNAMSIL and involve all other partners.

The Advisory Committee does say that greater effort could have been made by UNAMSIL to work with the **Special Court for Sierra Leone** to create joint services in areas, including personnel, information technology, and finance and procurement, in order to avoid the establishment of separate units within the

Court.

While UNAMSIL had provided crucial support to the Court in the field of security, the Mission is encouraged to further strengthen collaboration to the extent possible during this final period.

There is also a concern that competition for experienced staff among multiple operations in the region as UNAMSIL is downsizing has precipitated an erosion of personnel at the Mission at a crucial period of its operation. The ACABQ strongly recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations assign greater priority to ensuring that adequate numbers of experienced staff are available to carry out final activities efficiently and effectively, and that guidelines be established to strengthen existing lessons-learned efforts.

The ACABQ also requests that the Mission carefully assess the training needed by staff to accomplish their task, noting that some of the training courses undertaken seem more suited to the start-up phase of peacekeeping missions.

Finally, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider extending the funding for so-called "quick-impact projects" beyond the initial stages of missions.

In **Sierra Leone**, the ACABQ visited the sites of two such projects, where Ghanaian military personnel were helping to build schools. These projects, implemented during the downsizing phase, were useful not only for the communities concerned, but also because of the good public relations they foster among all participants. Furthermore, they give an additional constructive task to military contingents. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretariat work towards developing a model that would draw on lessons learned and not involve the establishment of rigid financial arrangements, which could render such projects more costly and impede their quick implementation.

United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

The proposed budget for the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (document A/59/289) for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 amounts to \$384.4 million, superseding the budgetary proposals for UNOCI for the same period set out in a report of the Secretary-General dated 7 May 2004 (document A/58/788).

The UNOCI, established by the Security Council in its resolution 1528 of 27 February 2004, is mandated to restore normalcy and overall security in Cote d'Ivoire. The budget provides for the deployment of 200 military observers, 6,040 military contingent personnel (including 120 force headquarters staff officers), 350 civilian police, 387 international staff, 405 national staff (including 18 national officers), and 215 United Nations volunteers.

The ACABQ report (document A/59/419) on the proposed budget for UNOCI recommends a reduction of \$5.9 million, identifies opportunities for further savings, and makes a number of recommendations regarding the management of the mission.

As in its consideration of the proposed budgets for United Nations missions in Haiti and Burundi, the Advisory Committee again expresses concern about the application by the Secretariat of a "two-pillar structure" for the mission. This structure would entail the establishment of two Deputy Special Representative posts within the mission, one responsible for operations and rule of law, and the other for humanitarian coordination, recovery, and reconstruction. The proposed model was intended for use in all future complex peacekeeping missions.

Similarly to the Haiti mission, while appreciating the work done so far to streamline the structure of the mission, the Advisory Committee stresses that its concerns have not been fully addressed, particularly regarding the need to establish clear lines of authority and avoid fragmentation and grade inflation. In view of these concerns, the Advisory Committee recommends a series of adjustments to the staffing of UNOCI, which together would reduce the budget by \$456,100. These recommendations are offered on the

understanding that the staffing of UNOCI will be revisited in the next budget for the Operation in light of further experience.

The Advisory Committee commends the Secretariat for the well defined framework it has established for the Operation, particularly the close alignment of the components and expected accomplishments with the mandate of the mission. The one exception raised by the ACABQ was in the area of humanitarian affairs. While it appears that the mission is assigning importance to the humanitarian coordination "pillar" with the establishment of the post of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Coordination, Recovery, and Reconstruction, the outputs listed under Component 3 ("Humanitarian and Human Rights") do not reflect this. In fact, the concept of the integrated mission and the coordination role do not seem to be fully developed in the budget document.

The ACABQ further requests additional information regarding the funding of the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) efforts, which were scheduled to begin on 15 October, and expresses interest in the forthcoming report on cooperation between the United Nations missions in West Africa and on cross-border activities.

While commending the Operation for the substantial progress it has made in the emplacement of military contingent personnel and military observers, the ACABQ notes that only 210 civilian police, of an authorized 350, are in place. After inquiring about the high vacancy rate, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mission was having difficulty finding French-speaking candidates for civilian police, which it considered essential. Understanding that this has been a problem in several peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee stresses the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to deal with this matter expeditiously.

The Advisory Committee urges the mission to continue efforts to find qualified local staff, understanding the Operation's stated concerns about staff safety and neutrality. Among the operational costs that could be reduced were the budgets for training, consultants, official travel and, most substantially, air operations, which could be reduced by \$4.5 million, to account for the delay in deploying the planned aviation transport unit and the eight helicopters associated with it.

Action on Draft

Prior to action on the draft resolution on the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (document A/C.5/59/L.3), submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations, the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, WARREN SACH, provided explanations to the Committee regarding the Secretariat's understanding of operative paragraph 3 of the text. By the terms of that paragraph, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure that budget presentations for special political missions, to the extent possible, utilize the format of peacekeeping operations and contain justification of post- and non-post requirements, subject to the considerations of timeliness and the need for expeditious financing action.

He said that during informal consultations on the earlier version of the draft, it had been indicated that implementation of the paragraph in question could lead to delays in the provision of financing for special political missions. It was also said that there was a need for flexibility in the application of that paragraph. As modified and presented in the final draft, the Secretariat had no problem with the requirement and would continue its attempts to present the budgets of special political missions in the same format as peacekeeping missions.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would provide some \$5.4 million for the United Nations support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, which was established to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the border dispute between those two countries. That amount would be charged against the balance of funds already allocated for special political missions in the regular budget for 2004-2005.

The draft was prepared following consideration of the Commission's revised requirements for the period

from 1 June to 31 December 2004 earlier this week, and represents a reduction of some \$580,700, compared with the \$6 million commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General by Assembly resolution 58/294 last June.

The draft was approved without a vote.

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Date/Time: Tuesday, October 19, 2004 - 6:03 AM EDT

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