

**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:**

Thursday, December 03 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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# No definite date for UNAMSIL's withdrawal

"The pending withdrawal of UNAMSIL has no definite date as this is still to be resolved by the United Nations Security Council." This statement was made on Tuesday by the Special Representative of the United Nations

Secretary General (SRSG) for Sierra Leone- Ambassador Daudi N. Mwakawago during a one-day Media seminar on "UNAMSIL- the ADW Process: Preparing for Transition" held at UNAMSIL Headquarters at Mammy Yoko. Reacting to concerns

raised about UNAMSIL's withdrawal and who will then have to secure places like the Special Court after June 2005, the SRSG clarified the issue by stating that until the United Nations Security Council adopts a resolution on the actual date of withdrawal.

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## No definite date for UNAMSIL's withdrawal

*From Front Page*  
"all we have now are ideas". He explained that the last resolution 1562 extended the mandate of the peacekeeping body in Sierra Leone to June. "What obtains now is that the drawdown is still on as scheduled and the question of who should and will guard the Special Court will be decided by the Security Council's resolution on UNAMSIL." Earlier while opening the seminar on UNAMSIL's Adjustment

Drawdown and Withdrawal (ADW) process and its implication on the socio-political life of the people of Sierra Leone, the SRSG noted that "the ADW programme has been designed in such a way that its execution would not leave any security vacuum in the country." He also said that the progress in building up the capacity of the Sierra Leone Security Forces constitutes one of the critical benchmarks that would determine the

pace of the drawdown process. He also explained that "against the backdrop of anxiety and growing concerns among the people of Sierra Leone regarding the hard-earned peace and security vis-à-vis Government's ability and capability to guarantee same after the completion of the Mission, UNAMSIL considers it imperative to assure the people that the country's Security Forces will give a good account of themselves."

Awoko  
Thursday December 2, 2004

## **UN missions in west Africa pledge cooperation, eye tensions in Ivory Coast**

**DAKAR, Dec 1 (AFP)** - Force commanders from neighboring west African missions in Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone pledged Wednesday to prevent weapons and fighters from crossing porous borders, while keeping wary eyes on mounting tensions in Ivory Coast.

"In Liberia we have officially finished our disarmament campaign and it is my belief that the weapons in the country before the war are now destroyed by us or are in the process of being destroyed," Kenyan General Daniel Opande, military chief of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), told reporters.

"We can say with certainty that if there are weapons in Liberia going into Ivory Coast they are very few. If there are weapons hidden... we will continue to monitor to make it more difficult for weapons to enter Ivory Coast."

The neighbors are at different stages in emerging from crisis: Sierra Leone, drawing down from a five-year UN mission that at its peak involved 17,000 peacekeepers, is three years out from the end of its decade of civil war and is "mostly secure and stable," said force commander General Sajjad Akram of Pakistan.

Liberia, where 15,000 troops are helping to ensure a lasting peace after back-to-back civil wars since 1989, is "stabilizing" said Opande, after a disarmament campaign that enrolled some 90,000 members of three warring factions and collected more than five million rounds of ammunition.

In Ivory Coast, where a low-level civil war begun in 2002 continues to divide the country between rebel-north and government-south, the situation is more tenuous.

Government planes in early November bombarded rebel positions, in violation of an 18-month ceasefire, killing nine French troops and a US aid worker in the central town of Bouake in a raid on a French military base.

France's aggressive response, wiping out the air force and seizing the airport in Abidjan, unleashed a torrent of anti-foreigner violence that sent tens of thousands of Ivoirians flooding into Liberia and prompted the exodus of some 8,000 French and an estimated 1,000 other foreign nationals.

The United Nations has since slapped an arms embargo on Ivory Coast and has threatened to impose targeted sanctions including a travel ban and the freezing of assets on December 15 should there be no progress towards peace.

Senegalese General Abdoulaye Fall, the force commander for the UN Operation in Ivory Coast, said responsibility for peace and stability in the former regional powerhouse was in the hands of the politicians, not the military.

"We are waiting for the evaluation of the international community to see whether the appropriate measures have been taken," he said.



For up to the minute sports,



## 9 German Entrepreneurs to Visit Salone

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

December 2, 2004

Posted to the web December 2, 2004

By Ibrahim Seibureh  
Freetown

Karl Prinz, Head of German Division 303 in charge of West and Central Africa, has revealed that a team of nine German entrepreneurs would be part of the entourage of German President Horst Kohler, expected to arrive in the country next Monday for a four-day visit.

He says the delegation would meet Vice President Solomon Berewa to discuss the current economic situation of the country and to find possible areas of investment.

"President Kohler's visit is part of the German government's recognition of Sierra Leone's achieved peace after a long and cruel war, which is at the same time a great success story of international peacekeeping," he stated, adding that the establishment of the Special Court ensures that nobody could rely on impunity for crimes against humanity.

Karl Prinz says President Kohler's visit would go a long way to redeem the image of the country abroad.

The German president is also expected to visit the countryside during his four-day stay in the country.

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# War In Sierra Leone

# Northerners Not Guilty



By Abu Bakarr Joe Sesay

*We take great exception to a front page story in a local tabloid this week, accusing Northerners of starting the decade-long war, quoting a Special Court witness.*

We consider that assertion unfortunate and very

unhealthy for our post-war reconciliation and development efforts. In our view, such pronouncements will only succeed in opening up old wounds and fan the

flames of hatred at a very critical moment in our political history.

We will be mistaking if we start apportioning blames for a war that shattered almost every

family, killed every tribe and devastated all corners of our beleaguered

nation. Once we attempt to get to the bottom of what actually ig-

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# Northerners

nited the war, we will suddenly realise that we are all guilty - although a clique of political elites do take the lion share.

The problem started when our leaders then lost focus and dragged the country into abyss. Plundering of state resources, social injustice, blatant disregard for fundamental human rights not excluding brutal suppression of demonstrations in which many souls perished are among the factors that sparked the war.

By then, our political elites comprised people from all tribes, all regions, all walks of life in Sierra Leone. They were all Sierra Leoneans who saw nothing wrong in institutionalising corruption, subjecting their compatriots to degradation, physical and mental torture and injustice of alarming proportions.

When these political mistakes abandoned previous commitment to participatory democracy and created an environment of bad governance, what did we do?

When they instituted a highly centralised, inefficient, and corrupt bureaucracy system of government, marginalizing the people and robbing them of their fundamental human rights, what did we do?

When students demonstrations for radical socio/economic reforms were brutally suppressed resulting in the gruesome killing of a number of students, what came out of it?

Of course a critical reflection on the above will make people begin to think otherwise. Except those who directly and immensely benefited from the rotten system, everybody else was fed up and desperately needed positive change.

So where do the northerners alone stand to be blamed? What makes them guilty? Since our society is not polarized, we all, therefore, share the blame for anything that went wrong in our darkest political days.

It is when we put the war behind us and work towards achieving a new political reality.

*The Democrat  
Friday December 3, 2004*

The New Citizen

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2004

# EX-AMBASSADOR OUTLINES GERMAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Former German Ambassador to Sierra Leone and Head of Division, West and Central Africa, Karl Prinz last Wednesday informed media practitioners at the German Embassy in Freetown that during the German president, Dr. Horst Kohler's four-day visit to Sierra Leone, 6<sup>th</sup> -

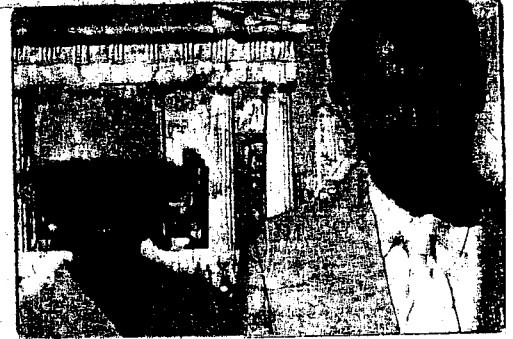
9<sup>th</sup> December 2004, the German Head of State would meet with his host, Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and will also visit the Speaker and Members of Parliament at their temporary location at the Bank of Sierra Leone Complex, Kingtom. He further stated that

Members of Parliament would be opportuned to discuss bilateral relations beneficial to both countries with members of the high-powered German delegation, most of whom are parliamentarians and astute politicians both in the ruling and opposition parties in the German

Bundestag.

Karl Prinz further disclosed that during Dr. Horst Kohler's visit he would meet with the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General, Daudi Mwakawango, attend a banquet and that the visiting German president would be decorated as a Freeman of the Freetown municipality.

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*The German President and his wife*



FOR GOMDYLIA...  
FROM PAGE 1

# EX-AMBASSADOR

Karl Prinz went on. "Dr. Horst Kohler will also visit the Special Court for Sierra Leone, meet with the micro financing system "Finance Salone", meet with Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, visit the Pakistan battalion of UNAMSIL in Kenema, visit the German mechanical team of UNAMSIL at Hastings and a vocational training centre at Waterloo, supported by GTZ among others."

Furthermore, a special programme has also been lined up for the visiting German president's wife and a Member of the German Bundestag, Mrs. Eva-Luise Kohler who is expected to visit the following places: - a refugee camp in Gondama, including a special project of German Agro Action in the

camp, the Leprosy and Tuberculosis Hospital at Lakka, project for street children in the centre of Freetown, a project for sexually abused girls in Calaba Town, a pre-school project of Caritas International, a German charity organisation, and a training programme of Forum For African Women Educationalist (FAWE) at Grafton.

The German business delegation on the other hand will pay a courtesy call on the Minister of Public Works and Housing, the Minister of Energy and Power, kimberlite diamond mining in Koidu, Eastern Sierra Leone, an economic forum under the chairmanship of the Vice President, Hon. Solomon Berewa, working luncheon hosted by the Sierra Leone

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture and the Sierra Leone Indigenous Business Association.

The high-powered delegation also comprises of the State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Kerstin Muller who is also an M.P, four students who won essay writing competitions, six invited guests from the cultural world, including renowned writers, nine guests from the German business sector, seventeen media practitioners and two Members of Parliament, Dr. Lippold and Mr. Heinrich. Other members of the German President's delegation would include security and support staff.

This is the first time a European Head of State is visiting Sierra Leone after the visit of the British Queen in 1961.

The New Citizen  
Friday December 3, 2004

# Salone complains Libya to United Nations



Prof. Penright  
the two Heads of State held talks  
on the issue of reparation from  
Libya.

Presidential Spokesman, Kenneth Kanji Daramy Thursday confirmed to Concord Times that the issue has been presented to the UN General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for consideration.

He says government is currently working on a white paper on the ERC Report that would formally be presented to the United Nations for additional consideration.

This revelation was made after President Kabbah's recent visit to Libya and other north African states as part of the existing South-South Cooperation.

"The President was in Libya to attend

about new Libyan investments in Sierra Leone and the prospect of a second ferry expected to arrive this month to ease movements between Freetown and Limpi. But Daramy did not state whether

Nations General Assembly requesting Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to pay reparations to Sierra Leone for having trained rebel commanders who actively participated in the country's decade old vicious conflict.

By Ibrahim Seibouh  
Professor Joe Penright, Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the United Nations has reportedly presented the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s recommendations to the United

Concord Times  
Friday December 3, 2004

# SCS Battles Special Court On Sunday

With a galaxy of first division players on its payroll earning Le250,000 monthly each, Sierra Construction System (SCS) play a friendly match on Sunday against a select Special Court side of local staff. The match will take place at the St. Edwards Field, Kingtom. Nasbie Nasser, the pivot behind SCS has spearheaded the team to winning 10 awards previously in successive Aberdeen gala

tournaments.



Nasbie Nasser

*Independent Observer  
Friday December 3, 2004*