

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Thursday, 17 April 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

RUF Trial Continues in Special Court / *Cotton Tree News* Page 3

International News

Interview With Stephen Rapp / *BBC World Service Trust* Page 4

Defense - Former RUF Radio Operator's Story Is Not Believable / *AllAfrica.com* Pages 5-7

Prosecution Witness was an AFRC Combat Commander / *charlestaylortrial.org* Pages 8-12

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / *UNMIL* Pages 13-14

Cotton Tree News

Wednesday, 16 April 2008

RUF trial continues in Special Court

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

Second accused in the RUF trial Morris Kallon continued to testify before trial Chamber One of the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in Freetown.

He wore a jeans suit and his usual spectacles. He appeared relaxed. Lead Defense Counsel of the accused Charles Taku questioned him about atrocities during the war among which was the robbing of the Koidu Town bank. Kallon denied the allegations as testified by a prosecution witness.

The accused witness further denied allegations by another prosecution witness that he had a communication set and summoned a muster parade at the Guinea border in 1997. Kallon was also questioned about his activities in Waterloo around 1999 just after when the AFRC retreated from Freetown.

He told the court that he did not stay at Waterloo but only went there when Issa Sesay was sent by Mosquito to collect released politicians. His evidence continues.

BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 16 April 2008

Former Liberian President Moses Blah announced in Monrovia early this month that he would appear at the war crimes trial of his predecessor, former President Charles Taylor, to testify on the 14 of April.

But when the time came, Mr. Blah was nowhere in The Hague to face Mr. Taylor in what promises to be a significant moment in the trial of the deposed Liberian president.

On Wednesday of this week, Search for Common Ground and BBC World Service Trust Producer Alphonsus Zeon in The Hague met the Special Court Chief Prosecutor Steven Rapp upon his arrival from the United States and asked the American prosecutor why Mr. Blah has not appeared to testify.

RAPP: I've been in touch with the former president, and indeed "His Excellency", and because of the medical situation and because of his wife being out of the country he's asked for some more time to answer the subpoena. We've communicated that...

ZEON: You subpoenaed him – is that what you're saying?

RAPP: Well he was subpoenaed. We applied for a subpoena to have him testify. That was a reflection of the fact that he had said publicly that he would appear if subpoenaed and so we explained to him that we were going to go ahead and seek a subpoena and that was granted by the Court. And so that's what's happened in this situation. But the subpoena said he was to appear on the 14th of April or on some other date that could be arranged. And we anticipate being able to arrange a date for next month sometime. But we want to make sure the situation with his security, the situation with his family and his health are well in hand before he travels. But we follow what he says in the press and his statements that he is willing to be a witness and we look forward to his testimony.

ZEON: That would seem a very serious and a strong support to your case. He's coming to testify against Mr. Taylor, isn't he?

RAPP: Well he's coming as a witness that's been subpoenaed by the Prosecution and as he's noted, he's given some interviews in the past about some of the events in the case. Publicly he says he's not for or against anyone, he's for the truth and we'll hear what he says as a witness both in direct and in cross-examination when he comes. I say this advisedly; thus far he's a protected witness but he himself has seen fit to go public and announce what's happened with his testimony and actually make his subpoena public, and I think under the circumstances it's appropriate to confirm that and to indicate now that we look forward to his testimony.

ZEON: I'm not clear what you say, he's coming to say the truth. Is he definitively, he's not coming to testify against Mr. Taylor. I mean, what category and what position is he going to assume in his testimony?

RAPP: Well he's coming as a witness that has been subpoenaed by the Prosecution. He will be a Prosecution witness. Now what he says publicly, and what he has said to me, is that he will be a witness of the truth, and of course we expect all our witnesses to be witnesses of the truth, and sometimes the truth helps the Prosecutor and sometimes it hurts the Prosecutor, but it always serves the interest of justice. And so we're quite content to have him characterize himself as a witness of the truth and the fact that he's a subpoenaed witness I think gives a greater impression that he's coming as a witness for the Court. But from a purely technical standpoint he is a witness for the Prosecution. We are offering him as a witness to prove our case and he's given us statements in the past and because we think that his testimony will be helpful to the Prosecution.

AllAfrica.com

Wednesday, 16 April 2008

Defense - Former RUF Radio Operator's Story Is Not Believable

The monitors of former President Charles Taylor's trial report for www.charlestaylortrial.org

On the fourth day of the cross-examination of prosecution witness TF1-516, defense counsel Morris Anyah pursued three main lines of attack on the credibility of the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) radio operator.

Anyah continued to point out discrepancies between the witness's testimony and his prior statements to the prosecution; he disputed the accuracy of the witness's descriptions of Charles Taylor's farm in Gbarnga and the Executive Mansion in Monrovia; and he cast doubt on why the RUF would have sent an inexperienced Sierra Leonean operator to fulfill such an important mission in Liberia when there were other operators to choose from who were Liberian and had more experience. Anyah also probed the witness's testimony about Issa Sesay making unilateral decisions during the time that Sam Bockarie was still the leader of the RUF. In the course of the questioning, tension mounted between Anyah and the witness. At one point the prosecution objected that Anyah was arguing with the witness instead of asking questions. At another, Judge Richard Lussick admonished the witness to get control of himself and stop being disdainful of the defense counsel.

There were two private sessions during the day, the first requested by the defense and lasting about 15 minutes. The second private session, following the lunch break, dealt with two confidential procedural issues: one raised by the defense and one by the prosecution. It lasted for an hour and a half before proceedings resumed in open session. Presiding Judge Teresa Doherty explained that the matters concerned witness protection.

Inconsistencies

As he has for most of the cross-examination, Anyah again relied heavily on the notes of prosecution investigators to raise inconsistencies between the testimony of the witness in court and his earlier explanations to the prosecution.

Anyah began the day by asking the witness about investigators' notes from October 2007 that falsely implied that there were three separate radio sets in Buedu: a stationary radio called "Bravo Zulu Four" and two mobile radios called "Planet One" and "Marvel". The witness had not corrected this statement when given an opportunity one month ago, and only explained to prosecutors two weeks ago that "Bravo Zulu Four" was a call sign that later changed to "Planet One". The witness said he had explained before this time that the call signs changed. When Anyah showed the witness a photo, the witness confirmed that it was a picture of Sam Bockarie's house in Buedu, and he marked the photo where he said there had been a room with a computer and a satellite phone. He said there had not been radios in that room because of the risk of jet bombers. Anyah produced notes from a prior statement to prosecutors in which the witness had said that radios were kept in the room together with the computer and satellite phone. The witness said that while radios were not operated in that room, some spare radios were stored there in case the active radios, used under a tree outside the house, had mechanical problems. He explained that the radios in the room had no call sign, but would take on the call sign of broken radios they replaced. Anyah asked the witness to explain his testimony that the radios "Marvel" and "Planet One" were both mounted in vehicles when he had earlier told prosecutors that Marvel "was usually in a fixed location, but could be made mobile". The witness responded that Marvel was always in a vehicle, but that it was usually parked in a fixed location.

Asked where he was during the Freetown invasion, the witness said he had been in Buedu. Anyah asked why then he had once told the prosecution that he had already been in Liberia at the time. The witness explained that he had already corrected this in a subsequent interview with the prosecution. He said he had initially thought prosecutors were asking about May 2000, when a confrontation outside Foday Sankoh's house in Freetown led to Sankoh being shot in the foot and arrested - and that by that time he already had been in Liberia. He said that although the notes read "Freetown invasion", when the investigator asked, he phrased it the "Freetown attack".

The witness previously told investigators that he had not returned to Kono during his time with the RUF following the 1998 retreat from Kono to Buedu together with Gullit, a commander of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). The witness told Anyah that he had returned to Kono once in 2001 in a failed attempt to undertake private diamond mining. Asked why he hadn't mentioned this to investigators, the witness said that their questions had been in the context of asking about Gullit, and that after 1998, he had never seen Gullit again. He said when he returned to Kono briefly in 2001, fighting there had stopped.

The witness said he saw Taylor at his farm in Gbarnga on one occasion, but did not meet him. When Anyah produced prosecution interview notes stating in the same paragraph that the witness saw Taylor in Gbarnga and was introduced to him by Yeaten, the witness claimed that the time Yeaten introduced him, it was at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia, not at Gbarnga.

The witness confirmed that Yeaten had taken his radio shortly after his arrival in Liberia and had given him another. He denied that it was the radio of the operator called "Life". Anyah read from interview notes stating that the witness had to use Life's radio after his original radio was taken. The witness insisted that Life hadn't been with Yeaten at the time and had only come later. Anyah put to the witness that he was only saying this because he wanted to make it look like he was the exclusive radio operator for Yeaten.

Knowledge of Taylor's farm and the Executive Mansion

The witness confirmed his earlier testimony that just after arriving in Liberia, he joined Benjamin Yeaten in a helicopter to travel to the town of Gbarnga, where Charles Taylor had a farm. Anyah asked the witness to describe the farm. The witness described the end of town where it was located; a number of fish ponds on the farm; said that there were many wild birds above the ponds (some of which Yeaten shot); said that he saw machines tilling the soil; and said he was told that they had just harvested beans. Anyah put to the witness that beans were not grown there, but rather rice. The witness said he saw that rice was also on the farm, but insisted he had been told that beans had been harvested on that part of the farm. Anyah then said that there were no birds on the farm, but rather horses. The witness agreed that there were horses, but said there were wild birds around the farm, and many of them.

Anyah recalled the witness's testimony last week that he had been to the Executive Mansion in Monrovia twice. Asked to describe it, the witness said it had six stories and that he had been in the fourth floor, room 306. Anyah asked the witness if he was aware of the fact that the Executive Mansion is an eight-story building. Anyah put to the witness that the ground floor of the Executive Mansion is numbered in the 100s, and the fourth floor in the 400s, so room 306 could not be on the fourth floor. The witness admitted to not being able to describe much about the inside of the Mansion aside from its tiled floors, a cafeteria, and a mechanic's repair shop next to the radio room. When Anyah asked, the witness said he had not known that the president's office and a cabinet room were on the fourth floor.

Why was the witness sent to Liberia?

Anyah spent much of the day building up to the question of why this witness, of all the RUF radio operators, would have been sent by the RUF to Liberia on such a sensitive mission to smoothe communication between the top RUF commanders and their Liberian contacts, especially Benjamin Yeaten. Anyah also expressed incredulity about elements of the witness's story.

Through his questions, Anyah made clear several reasons to doubt the selection of TF1-516 for the RUF assignment in Liberia:

The witness had never before met Benjamin Yeaten, to whom he was assigned.

The witness did not speak fluent Liberian English, and there were Liberian radio operators available within the RUF in Sierra Leone, as well as in Liberia.

Other RUF radio operators, including Liberians, had more experience.

The witness had not yet graduated secondary school.

The witness had been arrested twice while with the RUF for being absent without leave (AWOL), which was tantamount to insubordination, as well as another arrest for failure to rescue a satellite phone and fax machine while retreating from Zogoda.

In response, the witness said he didn't know why he had been chosen, but that Sesay sent him and he was under orders, so he had to go.

Throughout the day, Anyah occasionally injected his questions with incredulity about the witness's claims of proximity to power in Liberia. With reference to Yeaten, Anyah asked: "Are you saying that the second-most powerful man in Liberia took you to the fish ponds [at Taylor's farm in Gbarnga]?" "Yeaten introduced you, a radio operator, to the president?" "The second-most powerful man in Liberia escorted you to the Executive Mansion?" The witness said Yeaten had given him a tour of Taylor's farm, had introduced him to Charles Taylor, and had escorted him to the Executive Mansion. He also confirmed that Yeaten had allowed him to be present when the most senior RUF commanders visited Yeaten's compound, and that Yeaten had allowed him to live on the same compound where his two wives and children lived. Anyah asked why then, if he had been allowed to do all of these things, when visiting the Executive Mansion his access had been restricted to the fourth floor. The witness said he didn't know why.

Bockarie, Sesay, and decision-making in the RUF

Anyah showed interest in the witness's testimony that it was Issa Sesay who had sent him to Liberia in mid-1999, even while Sam Bockarie was still the leader of the RUF, before his own departure for Liberia. The witness said that Issa Sesay was a Brigadier General at the time, while Bockarie was a full general, but confirmed that Sesay did have unilateral conversations with Benjamin Yeaten. Further, the witness described Sesay shooting dead the RUF doctor in Buedu while Bockarie was away and without his approval. Anyah asked if Sesay ever requested ammunition from Liberia without Bockarie's approval, and the witness said that he went to Liberia for ammunition even when Bockarie was in Buedu. He said that Bockarie and Sesay referred to each other as "master", and that he had seen them sharing a bench and eating from the same plate.

The proceedings resume tomorrow morning at 9:30.

charlestaylortrial.org

Thursday, 17 April 2008

Prosecution witness was an AFRC combat commander in Freetown during the January 1999 invasion

9:30 (10:00 with the delay in video and audio from the courtroom): Court is in session.

Prosecutor Shyamala Alagendra continues to examine prosecution witness Alimamy Bobson Sesay:

Pros: Proceed from where you left off yesterday, when you said you were an Orderly Corporal at State House in Freetown after the 1997 coup.

Wit: I continued to remain an Orderly Corporal for about a month, after which I was assigned to Honorable Hassan Papa Bangura as Military Transport Officer: I was in charge of the vehicles and drove the Honorable. I was also a security to him.

Pros: The time you started to work with him, what was his position?

Wit: He was a member of the AFRC Council, a corporal in the army, and they were the ones who overthrew the SLPP government of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. He was one of the 17 council members who overthrew the government.

Pros: I'm going to briefly take you through your ranks from 1997. At the time of the coup, what was your rank?

Wit: I was a corporal in the army.

Pros: For how long did you hold this rank?

Wit: Until late September 1997 or so, when I was promoted to Sergeant. After the intervention in Freetown, I was promoted to RSM, Regimental Sergeant Major. It was an approval from Hassan Papa Bangura. When we went into the jungle at Colonel Eddie Town, Gullit promoted me again to Second Lieutenant.

Pros: Did Gullit have another name?

Wit: Yes. Tamba Alex Brima.

Pros: At this time when you were promoted by Gullit, what was his position?

Wit: He was the head of the brigade administration at Colonel Eddie Town.

Pros: Was there a change in rank after this?

Wit: Yes, after the arrival of Saj Musa, the troop, including me, left to Manga Bureh in Port Loko district. I was reprimanded and demoted to Sergeant again by Saj Musa.

Pros: Who was Saj Musa?

Wit: Acting Vice Chairman of the AFRC Council.

Pros: Was there a change in rank after this?

Wit: Yes, after the capture of Masiaka, Saj recommended for us to act as Captain.

Pros: What was the reason?

Wit: The bravery I showed at Masiaka, where I captured the SPG [___ grenade] from the Guineans.

Pros: Another change in rank?

Wit: After Saj Musa's death at Benguema, Gullit said I should be a Lieutenant. It was in December 1998. I cannot recall the exact date, but it was very close to Christmas.

Pros: A change in rank after this?

Wit: Just before entering Freetown Jan 6, Gullit recommended that all Lieutenants would be promoted to Captain if we captured Freetown. I was promoted on Jan 6, 1999.

Pros: A change in rank after this?

Wit: After the retreat from Freetown, we retreated to Magbeni together with Bazy Kamara. He promoted me to Major and assigned me as ADC to Hassan Papa Bangura.

Pros: For how long did you hold this rank?

Wit: I held this position until we were arrested on June 6, 2000.

Pros: Who was Ibrahim Bazy Kamara?

Wit: A member of the AFRC Council. He was the PLO 3.

Pros: You told us you were Military Transport Officer for Hassan Papa Bangura. How long did you hold this assignment?

Wit: Until we left Kono in June-July 1998.

Pros: When did you go to Kono.

Wit: After the February 1998 intervention in Freetown.

Pros: Did you have other assignments in Kono during this time?

Wit: After I received those promotions, it was called Field Commission Officer - I was always on the field, engaged in battles.

Pros: After July 1998, where did you move to?

Wit: I left with the troops to Mansofinia.

Pros: Where is that?

Wit: In the Koinadugu district.

Pros: What were your assignments?

Wit: I was with Hassan Papa Bangura as his personal security. I was also engaged at the battlefield.

Pros: What do you mean by that?

Wit: Whenever the brigade was to prepare for any attack, I was appointed as one of the commanders for the attacks.

Pros: How long did you remain in Mansofinia?

Wit: About three days.

Pros: Did your assignment change after this at some point?

Wit: Yes. After Gullit promoted me at Col. Eddie Town, I was sent to the 4th Battalion as an Intelligence Officer. Mostly, in case there were any enemy threats, I would inform the battalion. I would go on reconnaissance missions.

Pros: Did you have other duties?

Wit: Yes. I was also a battlefield commander and a combatant officer.

Pros: Did your assignment change at some point after this?

Wit: Later I was sent to the 5th battalion, still as a combatant officer. I was with the 5th battalion until I entered together with the troop into Freetown on Jan 6, 1999.

Pros: Did your assignment change then?

Wit: I was assigned again to Hassan Papa Bangura as a personal bodyguard.

Pros: What was your assignment in Freetown?

Wit: I was a battlefield commander, I was a combatant officer in most of the battles in Freetown.

Pros: Did your assignment change at some point?

Wit: After the withdrawal from Freetown, I was assigned again to Hassan Papa Bangura as a personal security - just as the troop was retreating from Freetown, around the third week of January.

Pros: How long did you have this assignment?

Wit: Until I was appointed ADC to Hassan Papa Bangura [through a number of events] until June 6, 2000. We were arrested together.

Pros: What is ADC?

Wit: Aide de camp.

Pros: Where were you made ADC?

Wit: At Magbeni.

Pros: At this time you served as ADC, did your group have a name?

Wit: Yes. They referred to us as the "West Side".

Pros: Did Bazy have a position with the "West Side"?

Wit: Yes, he was the CIC, the Chief in Command. Hassan Papa Bangura was the second in command and director of operations.

Pros: Do you remember when the coup took place in Freetown?

Wit: Yes, May 25, 1997.

Pros: Where were you?

Wit: At my house in Wellington, when I heard a broadcast over the radio from a Corporal Gborie. He said the other ranks, sometimes they called us NCOs, had overthrown the SLPP government led by President Kabbah. He called on all military personnel to report to their locations. Gborie said he was one of the men who led the coup.

Pros: After this announcement, did you hear any further announcements?

Wit: Yes. Captain Paul Thomas also went over the air and declared that the military had taken over and declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew, and that all officers should report immediately to various barracks and battalions. Capt. Paul Thomas said he was the military spokesman for the military government.

Pros: Did you hear any further announcements?

Wit: Yes. There was another announcement on the BBC. Foday Sankoh called on the commanders and members of the RUF to go to Freetown and take orders from Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma. He said they had become the People's Army.

Pros: Did you know where Sankoh was?

Wit: Yes. At that time, the government of Sierra Leone went over the air and announced they had arrested Sankoh in Nigeria under Sani Abacha.

Pros: When was this announcement made by Kabbah?

Wit: It was just after they had gone for the Abidjan Peace Accord, in early 1997.

Pros: After this announcement from Sankoh, did you hear any further announcements?

Wit: Yes, Lieutenant Eldred Collins went on the air and said he was spokesman for the RUF, and that the RUF had come to Freetown to join the AFRC and take instructions from Johnny Paul Koroma.

Pros: After this announcement by Collins, did you hear any further announcement?

Wit: Yes. Johnny Paul Koroma also went on the air and announced the members of his Council and announced some other appointments.

Pros: Did Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma have a position at that time?

Wit: Yes.

Pros: How did you know about it?

Wit: According to his announcement, he said he was commander in chief of the armed forces of Sierra Leone and the AFRC Chairman.

Pros: What did you do then?

Wit: I went to State House on my way to Cockerill Barracks. I heard heavy fighting near State House and we captured it.

Pros: What were the other appointments that Koroma announced?

Wit: He named himself as the chairman. His vice chairman was Foday Sankoh, but in his absence, Saj Musa would act in his place. Abu Sankoh was PLO 1. PLO 2 was Gullit. PLO 3 was Ibrahim Bazy Kamara (aka "Machiavelli" or "Dark Angel"). He also named other members in his Council: The Secretary General was AK Sesay. Other members were: Corporal Gborie, Hassan Papa Bangura, Foday Kalleh, Samuel Kargbo, Corporal Adams, Franklin Conteh, Moses Kabbiah (Rambo), Corporal Suleiman, Corporal Hector B___, Abdul Sesay, and Corporal Momoh Bangura, and Santigie Borbor Kanu. He named some other people. The new chief of the defense staff was Col. SFY Koroma. The chief of army staff for ECOWAS was named. Commander Gilbert was head of the Navy Wing.

10:15 (10:45 with the delay in video and audio): Judge Doherty says that court must now adjourn so that the judges can attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Special Court's new Registrar. The proceedings will continue at 11:30, and there will not be the normal 11:30-12:00 mid-morning break. With the delay in video and audio, this account will resume at 12:00.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**
 United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
16 April 2008

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

Newspaper Summary

President Sirleaf submits US\$10M Supplemental Budget

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, The New Liberia, the News)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has submitted a US\$10 million supplemental budget for fiscal year 2007/08 to the Liberian Senate.
- The supplemental budget includes a targeted donor component of US\$5,646,340 million and non-donor component of US\$4,353,660 million.
- It can be recalled that the amount of nearly US\$200 million was approved for this fiscal year by the National Legislature and signed into law by the President last year.

SRSB Says Mistrust in Security and Justice Structures propels Mob Violence

(New Democrat)

- [sic] There is mistrust in the justice and security structures of the country, thus propelling citizens to opt for mob justice, UN Secretary-General Special Representative in Liberia Ellen Løj told the Security Council Monday. Despite Government's efforts to enhance the rule of law, she said deficiencies in the justice system continued to pose serious challenges to the administration of justice country-wide.

Census Result to be Released Next Month

(The Inquirer)

- Statistics relative to the population of Liberia as gathered by the recent National Census would be made known by May this year.
- The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Services (LISGIS) accordingly would release the population result next month while information on the economic, social and other aspects would be released at the end of 2009.
- According to the LISGIS Director of Communication, Mr. Joel Kennedy, following the announcement of the total number of persons in the country in May, major concentration would then be on statistics related to the poverty rate and other demographic indicators.

Akon Promises To Improve Skills and Talents of Liberian Artists

(The Inquirer, The News, The Informer, Daily Observer, Heritage)

- Senegalese most famous musical icon Alieu Thiam, alias 'Akon' on Wednesday stormed the city of Monrovia at which time he identified the need to support and improve the skills and quality of Liberian artists.
- Addressing a major press conference upon arrival in Liberia at the offices of Cellcom Liberia, the Senegalese-born American star pointed out that having recognized the demand in the quest to improve young African artists in Africa, he would consider extending his musical foundation referred to as "Confidence" to Liberia.
- According to 'Akon' the foundation has been established by him to help improve the quality of young African artists and to also expose their talents to the global world. He further said that additional branches have already been established in Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria and Angola amongst others with Liberia being considered as the most recent beneficiary.

RPG Launcher Found In Cassava Patch in Careysburg

(The News)

- [sic:] Residents of Careysburg, Montserrado County, have turned over one Rocket Propel Grenade (RPG) launcher and an explosive to the Center for Peace Education and Democracy (COPE).
- The arm was given at the end of a three-day awareness workshop on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Careysburg last week.
- A COPE release said the RPG was discovered in a cassava patch in the area. The arm has since been given to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Radio Summary

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

Executive submits US\$10M Supplemental Budget to Legislature

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

President Sirleaf in Denmark for Launch of Africa Commission

- An Executive Mansion release issue in Monrovia yesterday says President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will today join other world leaders in Denmark in launching the Africa Commission in Denmark.
- The Commission intended to formulate new strategies to strengthen international cooperation with Africa, is being proposed and chaired by Danish Prime Minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen.
- While in Copenhagen, the Danish capital, the Liberian President will hold talks with Prime Minister Rasmussen and other Danish officials to reactivate bilateral relations between the two countries.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Musical Show by Ace Senegalese Born International Artist "Akon" Disrupted

- Correspondents say a musical concert by Senegalese-born international star Aliueane Thiam, Alias Akon, was yesterday cut short following a disruption by the "enthusiastic" fans attending the event.
- The concert organized by Cellcom Communication Corporation, one of the four GSM service providers in the country, coincided with another musical jamboree organized by the Crusaders for Peace with sponsorship from the UNDP and other partners including Lonestar Communications Corporation.
- The concert was intended to spread anti-small arms messages, advocate against sexual based violence, rape and HIV/AIDS control in the society.
- Meanwhile in an interview, Akon promised to return to Liberia to do similar show but cautioned Liberians against violent approaches to solving their problems.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Star Radio (News culled from website today at 09:00 am)

Security Committees Worry over Soldiers Desertion of Barracks

- The Security Committees of the Legislature has described as worrisome the desertion of 20 AFL soldiers from the barracks and said this could derail the momentum in the recruitment exercise.
- In an interview, the Chairman of the House Security Committee said the leaving by the soldiers without permission or AWOL is a cause for concern and suggested that an investigation be launched to establish why the soldiers are leaving the barracks on AWOL.
