

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:

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

Awoko

Wednesday May 19, 2004

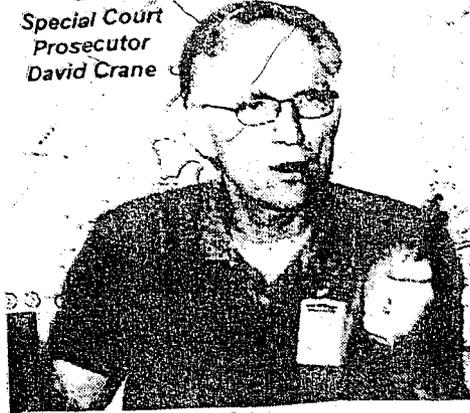
David Crane welcomes new charge for indictees

Special Court for Sierra Leone Chief Prosecutor David M. Crane has welcomed the arraignment of RUF and AFRC indictees on new charges of inhumane

acts relating to forced marriage, which the Trial Chamber approved ten days ago. "These additional charges of crimes against humanity reflect the fact that

women and girls suffered greatly during the war, through widespread forced marriage," said Mr Crane. "The Office of the Prosecutor is committed

Special Court Prosecutor David Crane



to telling the world what happened in Sierra Leone during the war, and gender crimes have been at the core of our cases from the beginning," he went on. These new charges according to him, recognises another way in, which women and girls suffered during the conflict. At the Special Court for Sierra Leone, acts of forced marriage will be prosecuted as an inhumane act a crime against humanity.

Contd. Page 2

David Crane welcome new charge for indictees

From Front Page

Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao of the RUF, and Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu of the AFRC, have entered pleas to the new charges. The new allegation, brought in the category of sexual violence, now becomes count eight in the 18-count indictment. The approval by the Chamber marks the first time that forced marriage

will be prosecuted as a crime against humanity under international law. A 2-1 majority, comprising Judge Benjamin Mutanga Itoe and Judge Pierre Boutet, upheld the Prosecution's Motions in two decisions. The majority found that since the motions were brought at a stage of the proceedings prior to trial, the new charge would not prejudice the rights of the accused. The judges ruled that the new counts were

based on the same evidence as other existing charges related to gender crimes and so would not give undue advantage to the prosecution. Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber- Judge Bankole Thompson dissented with both decisions. Judge Thompson found that the new charges were prejudicial to the rights of the accused to a fair and speedy trial, given what he said was the Prosecution's unjustifiable delay of eight months between the discovery of the evidence and the motion to amend the indictment.

The New Citizen

Wednesday May 19, 2004

WAR CRIMES INDICTEES FACE NEW CHARGES

Special Court prosecutor David M. Crane recently welcomed the arraignment of RUF and AFRC indictees on new charges, "order inhumane acts" relating to forced marriage, which the Trial Chamber approved ten days ago.

Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao of the RUF, Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Bobor Kanu of the AFRC were in court past Mon-

day to enter pleas to the new charges.

"These additional charges of crimes against humanity reflect the fact that women and girls suffered greatly during the war, including widespread forced marriage," Crane added.

He continued, "the Office of the Prosecutor is committed to telling the world what happened in Sierra Leone during the war and gender

crimes have been at the core of our cases from the beginning. These new charges recognise another way that women and girls suffered during the conflict."

The Special Court for Sierra Leone assures that acts of forced marriage will be prosecuted as an "Inhumane act" - a crime against humanity - for the first time in the history of International law.

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > **News, Most Recent 90 Days (English, Full Text)** 
Terms: **annan urges all nations to help** ([Edit Search](#))

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Taiwan News May 19, 2004

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Taiwan News

May 19, 2004

LENGTH: 591 words

HEADLINE: ANNAN URGES ALL NATIONS TO HELP U.N.

BODY:

UNITED **NATIONS** Secretary-General Kofi **Annan** is urging the 191 U.N. member states to meet the "surging demand" for U.N. peacekeeping troops, which could add an extra US \$ 1 billion to this year's US \$ 2.82 billion peacekeeping budget.

Last month, he said, more than 53,000 troops, military observers and civilian police were serving in 15 U.N. missions around the world from East Timor to Lebanon and Ivory Coast - the highest number since 1995.

"Even more missions loom on the horizon," **Annan** said Monday. "The Security Council has recently authorized a new mission in Haiti and has expanded the existing mission in Ivory Coast. Missions are being planned for Burundi and Sudan." **Annan** told an open Security Council meeting that a recent study by Oxford University economists found that the average economic cost of civil wars averaged US \$ 128 billion a year in lost revenue and local and regional output.

Measured against this loss, he said, "peacekeeping is extremely cost-effective." "Our duty must be to meet this demand and to seize the opportunities to bring long-standing conflicts to an end," **Annan** said. "For millions of our fellow human beings, U.N. peacekeeping missions offer their best - and sometimes only - hope of emerging from conflict towards a safe and stable future." A statement adopted by the Security Council at the end of the meeting called on member states to provide the United **Nations** "with full political and financial support to meet these challenges effectively." It also urged them to provide sufficient levels of trained troops, police, and civilian personnel.

Annan stressed that U.N. peacekeeping operations have become far more complex, including implementing peace agreements, managing political transitions, building institutions, supporting economic reconstruction, and organizing the return of refugees.

As U.N. missions become more complex **Annan** said, public expectations about what they can achieve also grows - sometimes unrealistically. While U.N. missions today are better equipped and coordinated than they were five years ago, he said, "the scale of the current surge may well outstrip our capacities to backstop the operations, and we will have to look at augmenting these capacities." U.N. peacekeeping missions remain hampered by a lack of specialized military capabilities only generally available from military forces in developed

countries - and these countries are only making limited contributions of troops, **Annan** said. French-speaking personnel are also in short supply.

Britain's deputy U.N. ambassador Adam Thomson said the unprecedented surge in demand for peacekeepers was a challenge to the U.N. system. The risk was that the U.N. "elastic" would be stretched too thin and that somewhere, sometime soon, it would snap, he said.

There are risks of inefficiency and ineffectiveness, of diminished accountability, breaches of military discipline, corruption, political mistakes and even military failure, he said.

The U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations has only 600 staff to plan, launch and oversee operations, which means fewer than 35 staff per operation - and this will diminish next year, Thomson said.

U.S. deputy ambassador Stuart Holliday expressed support for complex peacekeeping operations saying U.S. efforts will focus primarily on training peacekeeping personnel, especially in Africa.

The U.N.'s success in getting the mission in Liberia up and running in just six months "was commendable," he said.

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UNAMSIL Leaves **Bo, Environs June**

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By Joseph Vandi

The Bangladeshi UNAMSIL Commander in the Southern region, Col. M. B. Fadlu says that UNAMSIL forces in his area of responsibility are expected to leave by June 29 this year.

Speaking to the press at Government Reservation in Bo recently, Col. Fadlu said that UNAMSIL came to Sierra Leone to promote peace, reconciliation, resettlement and to help rebuild the infrastructure of the country destroyed during the civil conflict. "We are leaving behind the RSLAF and the Police to take care of the country's security," the commander said, adding that Sierra Leone security agencies in that area have been receiving training from UNAMSIL at Bo Airfield for effective service delivery.

"UNAMSIL will offer similar training in Pujehun and other districts before we leave", he said and commended the government and its international partners, especially the British government for working relentlessly towards the achievement of peace and stability in Sierra Leone. Meanwhile Sierra Leone Police (SLP) sources have disclosed that about 400 men and women are to be recruited. This, according to the sources, is to beef up national security forces before UNAMSIL would leaves the country.

According to Constable 3375 Umar Sesay of Sierra Leone Police News, "The maximum capacity of recruits that would be admitted at one go at the Police Training School at Hastings would be 200". He went on to say that the anticipated police personnel intake would be around 9,500 by the end of the year.

U.N. WIRE

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION National Journal

Liberian Militiamen Riot Over Disarmament Money; One Killed

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Hundreds of Liberian militiamen loyal to former President Charles Taylor rioted in the capital city of Monrovia yesterday after learning that they would not be paid immediately for handing over their weapons under the U.N. disarmament program.

The rampage killed one man and injured several, according to [BBC Online](#), and was broken up after U.N. peacekeepers used tear gas on the rioters (May 18).

The U.N. Mission in Liberia pays former fighters \$150 in cash after they have stayed in a disarmament camp for one week of screening. The fighters are promised another \$150 to be paid three months later, after they have returned to their home communities.

Rioters demanded that they be paid the remainder of their allowance immediately, saying they had been waiting six months for the money ([Integrated Regional Information Networks](#), May 17).

"We want to inform (head of the U.N. mission in Liberia) Jacques Klein that we are not stupid. We are responsible people who have decided to give up our arms," said General "Rambo," a member of a government militia that supported Taylor before he fled to Nigeria.

"If he does not give us our money this town is going to be hot. Some of us still have weapons hidden," he said.

The process of disarming some 40,000 fighters has been bumpy since it was launched in December. The program had to be postponed after fighters rioted, demanding their allowances be handed over immediately ([BBC Online](#)). Nine people were killed ([IRIN](#)). It was delayed again in February amid rows over how much money each fighter would receive. In mid-April the program was launched again, and was going well in previously rebel-controlled areas ([BBC Online](#)).

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Chatham House, London

Keep the UN On the Alert, Kabbah Cautions Liberians

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

May 17, 2004

Posted to the web May 18, 2004

By Stanley McGill

Monrovia

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone has cautioned Liberians that failure on their part to keep the United Nations reminded about its mission, the organization would leave without any sign of achievements.

His statement was contained in a message delivered by a three-man delegation from that country.

The delegation which visited Monrovia at the weekend, was led by the head of the national disarmament commission of Sierra Leone, Dr. Francis Kaikai. Other members included Dr. Mustapha S. Tejan-Kella and Mr. Mohammed Sidi Bah, head of Sierra Leone repatriation commission.

The delegation said President Kabbah does not want Liberians to regret when the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) leaves.

He said Liberians should keep reminding the UN about its mission regarding the need to build the capacity of institutions in the country.

President Kabbah, a former official of the United Nations, stressed the need for the UN to upgrade the capacity of existing institutions in Liberia so that when the UN mission pulls out, those institutions can be sustained.

Meanwhile, the head of delegation, Dr. Kaikai said that in providing guidance for the purpose of institution capacity building, his Government will work with the NCDDRR and principal actors in the ongoing peace process, to achieve this goal.

Counting on the Sierra Leonean experience, Dr. Kaikai told his Liberian colleagues that his Government constructively engaged the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to build the capacity of institutions before its departure.

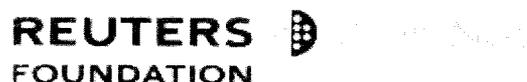
Dr. Kaikai who played a principal role in the disarmament process in his country, said without the success of the DDRR and immediate repatriation of refugees, peace and development were not attainable.

Earlier, Sierra Leonean Ambassador to Liberia Patrick Foya recounted the cultural and diplomatic ties that existed between the two countries, but which got muddy during the last decade.

He said however, with the visit of Chairman Bryant to Sierra Leone, the ties were now rejuvenated in the spirit of the Mano River Union (MRU).

Ambassador Foya stressed the need for the sustenance of this relationship as peace returns to both countries through the assistance of the international community.

At the same time, Executive Director of the National Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (NCDDRR), Dr. Moses Jarbo, welcomed the gesture, and noted that the NCDDRR will work with the Sierra Leonean experience to avoid mistakes.



Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies

Liberia rebels drop boycott of government

18 May 2004 16:14:50 GMT

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, May 18 (Reuters) - Liberia's biggest rebel group on Tuesday reversed a decision to stop cooperating with the government and pledged its commitment to disarmament.

Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) froze cooperation with the government on Friday because interim leader Gyude Bryant refused to sack the finance minister, whom they accuse of sidelining them in political decisions.

"We decided to drop our earlier stand because we believe it would be counter-productive to us," Deputy Defence Minister and LURD executive Joe Wylie told Reuters.

The rebels, who joined a coalition government after an August peace accord ended 14 years of civil war, have long complained about some key members of Bryant's administration.

They demanded Bryant's departure in October, only days after he was sworn in, but reversed that decision when he pledged to look again at some of their nominations for top posts.

Wylie said LURD still wanted Finance Minister Luseni Kamara removed from office and would write to international mediators including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the European Union to say so.

"I still say Bryant has created a parallel government, making it difficult for things to move forward," Wylie said. "But if we stop cooperating with the government and the peace process goes back, the people will suffer, not Bryant."

Liberia's civil war killed more than 200,000 people and spilled chaos across the region. LURD's government boycott had raised questions about the future of a disarmament programme.

But Wylie said: "The disarmament will go ahead. We cannot sabotage what we all helped to set up."

A revamped scheme to disarm some 40,000 combatants was launched in April after stalling last year as fighters rioted over the amount of cash they were receiving for their guns.

The United Nations says it has so far disarmed about 19,000 fighters, but hundreds who backed former President Charles Taylor rampaged in the capital on Monday armed with sticks and knives, saying they had not been fully paid.



2 Killed, Several Arrested

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

May 18, 2004

Posted to the web May 18, 2004

Monrovia

At least two persons got killed and over 10 were arrested during a violent protest by disgruntled former Government of Liberia militiamen.

Hundreds of former GOL militias who had gathered at the 72nd Military Barracks to be transported to the VOA disarmament site by UNMIL, resorted to a protest action yesterday upon the latter's apparent failure to show up for the scheduled exercise.

According to some of the ex-combatants who spoke to The INQUIRER Newspaper, their protest action that turned out to be violent, was aimed at drawing the immediate attention of UNMIL to quickly have them disarmed and demobilized.

Continuing, the ex-GOL fighters claimed that UNMIL have on numerous occasions promised to transport them to the VOA disarmament site for the exercise but that have failed to come through. "For every time promised, they don't come. Today again, they promised to come this morning but surprisingly they (UNMIL) did not show up. We are tired bearing arms. We want to disarm," the combatants in a frustrated mood iterated.

Marching from the 72nd Barracks through the Red-light Market towards Congo Town apparently to reach the UNMIL Headquarters at the Old German Embassy, the ex-GOL combatants stressed that they want to turn over their arms now so as to start a new life by engaging in activities that will improve their lives.

Obviously, the action of the aggrieved ex-GOL militiaman disrupted normal activities in the areas 72nd Barracks, Red-light Market, Paynesville and adjacent areas.

At the Red Light Market, several marketers and others sustained losses as a result of looting that occasioned the protest action by the ex-GOL combatants.

The situation became very tense as the ex-combatants who were brandishing sticks and other objects set up road blocks that disrupted the normal flow of traffic in the affected

areas. They also engaged in throwing missiles that smashed the windshields of cars that left many sustaining injuries of various degrees, while defenseless citizens including students ran in different directions for safety.

The lifeless body of male was seen at the Zone-5 police depot, while one other corpse was observed lying around the Congo Town back road junction, both believed to be casualties of the unfortunate event of yesterday.

No formal report was received about the death of the two persons, but an account said the body at the Zone-5 police depot station was the result of an attempt by the victim to loot a shop in the area..

The protesting combatants said they will continue their action until UNMIL can take them to the disarmament site and give them their just compensation.

"We have disarmed since December but are yet to receive our DDRR benefits. UNMIL is taking us for a ride because they paid MODEL and LURD fighters as they disarmed. We are not stopping until Jacques Paul Klein can see the need to give us our benefit. We are tired, tired and tired. We want to disarm," the fighters in a desperate mood hinted The INQUIRER.

All attempts by former GOL front-line commander, Gen. Roland Duo, to control the situation proved futile as the fighters at some point threatened to kill anyone who should stand in their way.

They accused Gen. Duo of siding with UNMIL to compromise their interest. "Gen. Duo is a traitor. He is working with UNMIL to seek his own interest. We will not listen to him," the ex-GOL combatants maintained.

In spite of their threatening remarks, UNMIL military police in collaboration with the Liberia National Police were able to stop the disgruntled fighters from coming beyond the Congo Town back road junction where over 10 were arrested.

The police fired tear gas and chased the fighters who later fled the scene in different directions.

In a brief chitchat with journalists, UNMIL police commissioner, Mark A. Kroeker said UNMIL police along with LNP were doing all they can to bring the situation under control.

He expected his men to have taken about an hour to quiet the situation.

Commenting on casualties, Commissioner Kroeker could not confirm any death but said, obviously some persons might have suffered some injuries though he at the time could not give any detail.

Speaking on UNMIL Radio yesterday evening, the head of Sector One and UNMIL's Deputy Force Commander Gen. Joseph Owonibi dismissed the claim of the ex-GOL protestors, saying, "they were not scheduled to be disarmed now."

He maintained that at the moment, UNMIL is disarming only those with guns and ammunition after which those with yellow chits will be looked at.

He said those that were disarmed but not paid will have their turn to be disarmed. Gen. Owonibi confirmed that the situation has been brought under control and that UNMIL was patrolling the area.

For his part, UNMIL CIVPOL Commissioner Krocker speaking on the same UNMIL Radio, called on residents of the area to report any unusual assembling of people.

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Terms: **unmil uncovers arms cache** ([Edit Search](#))

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Africa News May 18, 2004 Tuesday

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Africa News

May 18, 2004 Tuesday

LENGTH: 931 words

HEADLINE: Liberia;
UNMIL Uncovers Arms Cache

BYLINE: The Analyst

BODY:

Following a tip-off by civilians in the mining town of Bong Mines in Margibi County, the **UNMIL** contingent in Kakata has reportedly uncovered a **cache** of deadly weapons.

The **cache** which was uncovered last Sunday was reportedly hidden at one abandoned military training base in the area by one former GOL militia commander, Gen. Joseph Duo, alias, "Shavey".

According to our reporter who visited the area, Shavey took the **arms** up the mines and concealed them in an abandoned building perhaps with the hope of using them as bargaining chips when situations presented itself.

The weapons, according to eyewitnesses, are mainly automatic rifles complete with ammunition.

Following the tip-off, **UNMIL** troops in battle-ready gears escorted "Gen. Shavey" to the mines where they presented him with the choice of disclosing the whereabouts of the **arms** and going scot-free or remaining uncooperative to be transported down to Monrovia to face military investigation.

Frightened by the prospect of facing interrogation in Monrovia, "Shavey" reportedly proceeded immediately to show the area where the **arms** were concealed.

The discovered weapons were immediately taken to Kakata, one of **UNMIL's** disarmament sites.

Many persons in Bong Mines are questioning "Gen. Shavey's" motive for hiding the weapons "when the disarmament process is in full swing and irreversible." Residents say the area where the **arms** were concealed was once used by the Taylor military to train abducted young boys and girls for military duties. Those refusing the forceful draft were reportedly summarily executed there.

Before the commencement of the disarmament process, Shavey allegedly ordered his men to submit their weapons to him which were kept at a specific location, according to residents.

As soon as the disarmament started in Kakata, some ex-GOL militias who spoke to our reporter claimed, "Gen. Shavey" sold the surrendered **arms** to non-combatants in the area

who in turn took them to cantonment sites in the county for compensation.

They said as a result of the behavior of "Gen. Shavey", they are left out of the whole process.

"Look at me. I was wounded during the fighting and now I may not get anything out of it. What will happen to me?" said one fighter both of whose palms were severed allegedly by fighters of LURD in Gbarpolu County sometimes in 2002.

About 21 other ex-combatants affected by "Gen. Shavey's" action are calling on **UNMIL** authorities in Monrovia to review their plight for possible assistance.

They regretted surrendering their weapons to "Gen. Shavey" and vowed to get even with him for leaving them in "cold water." Residents say it is unlikely that the ex-fighters will get "Gen. Shavey" whom they described as a "notorious armed robber and scrap metal looter".

In spite of concerted efforts by the International Community, foreign friends as well as Liberians to ensure complete disarmament of all warring parties to the conflict which will pave the way for the rule of law and the return of civilization to Liberia, there are still some disgruntle and misguided individuals bent on creating havoc for residents in Nimba County.

According to some individuals who claimed to have returned from Nimba recently, these armed men using AK-47 rifles and other harmful objects are said to be former Anti-Terrorists Unit (ATU) elements of former president Charles G. Taylor's Security Empire who retreated in the county as a result of the fighting between LURD and forces loyal to the former Liberian leader.

The senior pastor of the Liberia Inland Church in Mahnplay who refused to be named said that Taylor forces under the command of one general "Ghankay son" and his able lieutenants are in the constant habit of harassing peaceful citizens by setting up road blocks, thus preventing citizens from carrying on their normal activities.

The clergyman also added that general Ghankay son and his men travel from village to village, subjecting citizens to hardships and other forms of degradations.

Making the disclosure in Paynesville where he served as Guest Speaker of the Gio Town Community School, he furthered that because of these militiamen "uncontrollable behaviors, academic activities have been temporary suspended.

He added that farming which is the major source of income in the county has been abandoned due to the harassments the fighters are meting out at the people.

Also confirming the incident of harassment of peaceful citizens in the county is madam Kou Washington, an Executive of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) in Zoeyeh District said the absence of **UNMIL** troops in the county has been causing serious problems for residents in the county.

Madam Washington said the militiamen under the order of General Ghankay Wuo Miller, alias "No Mercy" formerly of the Special Operations Division (SOD) of the Liberia National Police (LNP), have been subjecting the residents of the district to hard labor and other forms of inhumane treatment.

She furthered that General Miller and his men have established a court system, through which they are extorting money, jailing and beating people found guilty of whatever charges are under their self-styled "legal system." Besides setting up a court system, Madam Washington said General Wuo Miller and his men are also abusing women and under-aged girls sexually. Meanwhile, the citizens of the county are appealing to **UNMIL** Force

Commander, General Daniel Ishmael Opande to deploy his troops as soon as possible to avoid the harassments of citizens by the marauding armed men.

LOAD-DATE: May 18, 2004

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Terms: **to succeed un peacekeepers need sustained political engagement of governments,clear mandates necessary** ([Edit Search](#))

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M2 PRESSWIRE May 18, 2004

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May 18, 2004

LENGTH: 1705 words

HEADLINE: UN

To succeed, UN peacekeepers need sustained political engagement of governments, clear mandates, necessary resources, Secretary-General tells Security Council

BODY:

Following is the text of remarks as delivered by Secretary-General Kofi Annan on **UN** peacekeeping operations to the Security Council today:

Mr. President, let me start by thanking you and your delegation for arranging this important discussion on a key topic for all of us. And it is also good to welcome you back in New York.

Let me, in my turn, add my word to yours in thanking Ambassador Inocencio Arias (Spain) for the contribution he has made to the **United Nations** and to this Council. Mr. President, you've said it all, but I also agree with you that we will miss his sense of realism and his wit. With that wit, he often pulls us back to what is possible, what is real, and for us not to drift too far into wishful thinking. And I think that is a quality that we are going to miss. And I think I speak for all of us if I say that it has been a pleasure in working with you, Ambassador. We will miss you, and I understand you're going back to Madrid to arrange a championship match. I hope we will all be invited. All the best, Ambassador.

Mr. Chairman,

We are facing a time of surging demand for **United Nations** peacekeeping. Last month there were more than 53,000 troops, military observers and civilian police serving in 15 **UN** missions around the world - the highest number of personnel since October 1995. Many of these missions are large and complex. Most go beyond the limited military functions that have marked traditional peacekeeping missions.

Even more missions loom on the horizon. The Security Council has recently authorized a new mission in Haiti and has expanded the existing mission in C'te d'Ivoire. Missions are being planned for Burundi and Sudan. By the end of this year, to absorb the new and enhanced missions, we may need an extra \$1 billion for the **UN** peacekeeping budget, which is currently \$2.82 billion.

Our duty must be to meet this demand and to seize the opportunities to bring long-standing conflicts to an end. For millions of our fellow human beings, **UN** peacekeeping missions offer their best - and sometimes only - hope of emerging from conflict towards a safe and stable future. A recent study by Oxford University economists points out that the economic cost of civil wars, in terms of lost revenue and local and regional output, averages \$128 billion a year, and that, measured against the costs of conflict, peacekeeping is extremely cost-

effective.

Mr. President, your laudable initiative in organizing this Security Council debate leads me to ask two broad questions:

- First, what is the nature of the peacekeeping challenge that we face?
- And second, is the **UN** able to do it - which really means, are you, the Member States, ready and willing to do it?

Peacekeeping today has become increasingly multidimensional.

The missions you **mandate** are implementing peace agreements, helping manage **political** transitions, building institutions, supporting economic reconstruction, organizing the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, assisting humanitarian aid programmes, supervising or even organizing elections, monitoring human rights, clearing minefields, disarming and demobilizing militias, and reintegrating their members into the civilian economy.

As the complexity of **mandates** increases, so too have public expectations about what these missions can achieve.

Peacekeeping operations are called to assist when peace is often new and fragile, but they must be part of a longer-term strategy to solidify the foundations of peace, lest we find that, as in Haiti and Liberia, we must return again. To this end, the international community must better integrate the security, **political**, economic and social levers that it has at its disposal to keep and build peace in the immediate post-conflict period and beyond. All the **UN's** departments, agencies and programmes - not just the Department of Peacekeeping Operations - have their part to play in the peace-building process. We must also ensure that our efforts to build peace never lose sight of the fact that we are there to assist, and it is the local population that must take a lead in the decision-making that affects their lives.

Especially as the **UN** moves into non-traditional aspects of peacekeeping, our **peacekeepers** become targets for people who seek to disrupt the **political** process, in the hope that further violence will enable them to achieve their aims. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that those who serve the **UN** Charter in peacekeeping missions are protected.

To assess, guard against and manage such threats, the **United Nations** needs to have a **clear** picture of the environments in which we are operating. **UN** peacekeeping operations need not only information but the capacity to analyse what this information means to the conduct of their mission.

How do we deal with these challenges? First, and above all, we have to show commitment. The international community must be prepared to stay the course with **political** will and resources, particularly during times of trial, to ensure that peace processes do not falter and give way to renewed conflict.

This Council bears a heavy responsibility as the body which **mandates** these difficult and dangerous missions. To **succeed, our peacekeepers** need your **sustained** solidarity and **mandates that are clear**, implementable and achievable. It is up to you to give a lead to other Member States in ensuring that each mission receives the troops and resources it needs.

Your support is especially important when a mission faces challenges to the legitimacy of its **mandate** from would-be spoilers. **UN peacekeepers** must be equipped to withstand such challenges and to do their work effectively. For this, they need a robust **mandate**, shaped by

clear political objectives and backed by a strong international consensus.

Furthermore, they must be provided with adequate resources and appropriate reinforcement so they can protect civilians, keep the peace and maintain security even when confronted by significant opposition.

With your help, and that of the General Assembly, we have been able to implement many of the recommendations in the Brahimi report. We are definitely more efficient and better coordinated than we were five years ago. We are also better equipped, both here at Headquarters and at our logistics base in Brindisi, to support our field operations and to respond more rapidly to sudden developments.

Notwithstanding these advances, the scale of the current surge may well outstrip our capacities to backstop the operations, and we will have to look at augmenting these capacities.

UN missions remain hampered by a lack of specialized military capacities, generally available from the military forces of developed countries. Unfortunately, these countries today make only limited contributions of troops to **UN** peacekeeping operations. At the same time, many States that are willing suppliers of troops have great difficulty in deploying staff within the **necessary** time frames.

I urge Member States to do their utmost to help fill these gaps so that **UN** peacekeeping operations are able to draw on specialized capacities and to deploy rapidly. The **UN** is also working with regional, subregional and multinational arrangements to ensure complementary capacities, for example, with early, temporary force deployments that can bridge the gap until **UN peacekeepers** can deploy.

Another critical gap is our urgent need for French-speaking personnel, especially police, to tackle assignments in Francophone countries. As we add or expand missions this year - Haiti, C'te d'Ivoire and possibly Burundi - that pressure will only intensify.

Mr. President, there is work to be done. I have outlined only some of the challenges. The Non-Paper before the Council provides a more comprehensive picture of the whole range of challenges that must be overcome if we are to meet the goals that we have set ourselves. Both in theory and in reality, peacekeeping embodies the spirit of the **United Nations**.

Through **UN** peacekeeping, the international community comes together in a unique way to pursue peace, using some measure of military means. This was not originally envisaged in the Charter as we all know, but it is entirely in keeping with the Charter's vision. Peacekeeping sends a powerful signal of the international community's intention to ensure peace is preserved. But to have real effect, this signal must be reflected in Member States' presence on the ground. Peacekeeping does not relieve nations of their responsibilities. Rather, it pools national responsibilities for the greater good.

The presence of peacekeeping troops sends a signal that is all the more powerful when they come from across the international community, from countries rich and poor. So I urge Member States across the **UN** to contribute troops.

The signal sent by a peacekeeping operation must also be backed up by **political** commitment from Member States. They play a key role in supporting peace processes and encouraging the parties to continue on the path to peace. Especially in these difficult days, when our focus is on a few major crises, the surge in peacekeeping will stretch the international community's attention. Each new mission, each new effort to resolve conflict, will depend for success on the sustained **political engagement** of Member States, participating directly in peacekeeping operations and through diplomatic, **political** and other

channels.

Our peacekeeping missions have a long history, one that includes times of great pride and times of great difficulty if not failure. We must recall the hard lessons of the past and ensure that as we enter this new period of surge, everything that can be done to ensure success is done. Today's new missions must be guaranteed the **necessary** resources and commitment to handle the uniquely complex and challenging tasks to which they are called.

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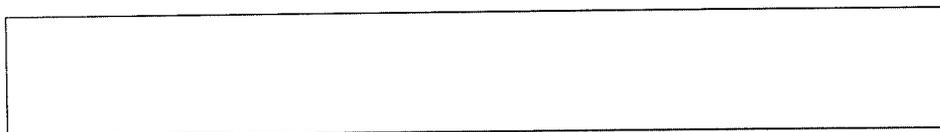
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UK set to support sanctions on arms dealer
 By Mark Huband in London and Mark Turner at the United Nations
 Published: May 19 2004 5:00 | Last Updated: May 19 2004 5:00

Britain is now expected to support French demands to freeze the assets of arms trafficker Victor Bout, amid growing signs that Washington may also drop its objections to action being taken against him.

The decision by the UK has emerged since a controversy erupted when it became clear that the US and UK were seeking other ways to target Mr Bout. The Ukrainian is living in Moscow. One of his companies is said by several diplomats to be involved in supplying US forces in Iraq.

Britain and the US have not included Mr Bout's name on their proposed lists of individuals whose assets will be frozen when a UN resolution on Liberia is implemented later this month. But a British official said yesterday that the UK now intends to support French proposals for Mr Bout's inclusion on the list. As recently as last Wednesday, France was still being discouraged from insisting that Mr Bout be included, on the grounds that his name would be rejected by the UN sanctions committee because of US objections.

But in response to an article this week in the Financial Times revealing the row, Richard Armitage, the US deputy secretary of state, signalled a shift in US policy when he told the Senate foreign relations committee yesterday that "as far as I'm concerned [Bout] ought to be on any asset freeze list and anything else you can do to him".

The UN measures will freeze the assets of the ousted Liberian president Charles Taylor, to whom Mr Bout provided weapons, as well as those of Mr Taylor's associates.

The trafficker was described in 2002 as a "merchant of death" by Peter Hain, the British foreign office minister, because of his arms dealing activities in Africa. US and UK support for the asset freeze would enable the most concerted action to date to be taken against Mr Bout.

A Whitehall official said yesterday that Britain had intended to support the French proposal when it became clear several weeks ago that Paris would insist on targeting the millionaire trafficker.

Critics of the French decision to target Mr Bout have suggested that to do so might lead to his hiding his assets, though the public row that has erupted is likely to alert him to the impending action against him.

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Five UN peace missions in West Africa to meet in Senegal on Friday

18 May 2004 – The heads of the five United Nations missions in West Africa will meet Friday in Senegal's capital to continue coordinating their policies and operations and to discuss specific cross-border issues, the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) said today.

The fifth meeting of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) will be chaired by UNOWA head Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

Expected to attend are Albert Tévoédjré of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Jacques Paul Klein of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Mariama Gamatié-Bayard of the UN Peace-building Support Office in Guinea Bissau (UNOGBIS).

Included in their discussions will be the regional dimensions of the simmering conflict in northern Côte d'Ivoire and in the Guinean province of Guinea-Forestière.

Mr. Ould-Abdallah's deputy, Ahmed Rhazaoui, will chair a parallel meeting of experts and representatives of national disarmament commissions, the humanitarian community and civil society, which will hold in-depth discussions of regional Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes and policies.

Salone Times

Wednesday May 19, 2004

DFID OFFICIALS TALK SECURITY WITH DEFENCE MINISTRY

A Defence Advisory Team and officials from the Department for International Development (DFID), visited the Ministry of Defence (MOD) at Tower Hill in Freetown over the weekend, where they held wide ranging discussions with the deputy Defence Minister, Joe Blell and Directors of the MOD, relating to developmental projects. Mr. Blell described the visit as timely and commended the British government for their continued assistance especially in the area of development and security to Sierra Leone.

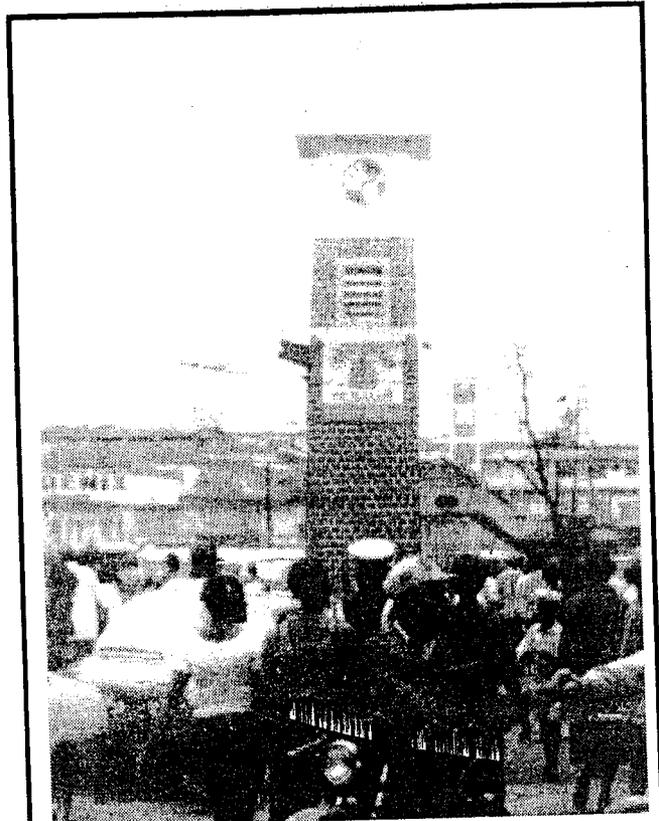
The Minister further said that with the drawing up of a proper procurement document and proper setting up of contracts, the Procurement and Audit Directorates would perform better at meeting the standard required by the MOD.

He stressed on training of Directors in the Directorates to ensure performance. Mr. Blell also outlined some of the constraints the MOD is going through but said he was convinced that with time, strategies and work plans will meet set objectives.

The Civil Adviser for the International Military Advisory Training Team (IMATT) at the Ministry of Defence, Aldo Gaeta, who introduced members of the visiting team, gave a brief background of financial and budgetary activities undertaken and the short falls of funds within the MOD's tight budget.

The leader of the team, who spoke on Britain's continued support to Sierra Leone said Britain was interested in ensuring that work projects and training facilities are strategically put together, particularly those involving financial commitments for the required funding.

The team was also interested in knowing the present position of the civil military relations, CIMIC funded project, Killed in Action payments, the ongoing restructure at the MOD and the military's relations with the Sierra Leone



The Clock Tower east of the capital Freetown. Notwithstanding the recent introduction of Traffic Wardens and revised traffic rules, this area is most times the zone of traffic jams. Is this problem insurmountable?

Police. The deputy Defence Chief of Staff, Brigadier Alfred Nelson-Williams appealed for support to the RSLAF in terms of logistics to make them ready to assume the security of Sierra Leone when UNAMSIL eventually withdraws.

Independent Observer

Wednesday May 19, 2004

72 hours to Elections...

Two Freetown Candidates At Police Station

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Ten now in CID custody

By Kadijatu Sesay

10 suspects are now said to be in police custody in connection with the murder two weeks ago of 32-year-old Lebanese contractor, Rahid Nassan Aldin formerly of 50, Lower Pipeline off Wilkinson Road in Freetown.

Director of the Criminal Investigation Department, Chief Superintendent of Police,

FUK Dabo, did not give the names of those helping with the investigation at yesterday's weekly police press briefing at Police Headquarters.

Initially, a woman was among the first three suspects to be arrested. And it was not also disclosed whether she was still in custody.