

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Thursday, 23 March 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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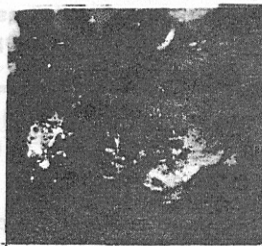
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Exclusive
23 March 2006

As Sirleaf Gives The Green Light...

Taylor To Arrive Soon

The newly elected female President of Liberia and the first in Africa, Elen Johnson Sirleaf, has finally okayed the extradition of the exiled Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, to Sierra Leone, where he is wanted for trial by the U.N. backed



Charles Taylor

Special Court for his role in fanning the flames of the decade long turmoil in that country.

It would be recalled that Mr Taylor, was one among a number of persons indicted by the international war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, for war

crimes and crimes against humanity, but was granted asylum in Nigeria through an AU peace deal, to allow peace to return to the war torn country. Since then, there had been mounting pres-

Contd. page 2

Taylor To Arrive Soon

From front page

sure by the International community including the United States of America and Britain, on Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo, for him to turn Mr Taylor over to the Special Court in Freetown, to answer to a Seventeen count charge of war crimes and other serious breaches of international humanitarian laws.

President Obasanjo had however been adamant in his refusal to hand Mr Taylor over to the Special Court in Freetown because according to him, he would only do so on the orders of a democratically elected government in Liberia.

Well, it seems all is over now as Mrs Sirleaf, as stated by the BBC, has finally given the green light and Mr Taylor's days in Nigeria, now appear to be numbered.

For di People

23 March 2006

Take Taylor to the Hague

CHAIRMAN OF the National League for Human Rights and Democracy.

Paul Kamara said yesterday that it would be fitting for the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone to put former Liberian president Charles Taylor for trial before the international tribunal at The Hague instead of Sierra Leone for the sake of stability in the subregion.

Kamara said the present situation in Sierra Leone is still unstable as well as in Guinea where president Lansana Conte's condition continues to deteriorate rapidly while in Liberia, the newly elected first woman president in Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has said that Taylor should now be accountable for his crimes before the Special Court in Sierra Leone and to be extradited from Nigeria immediately because of his capacity to destabilize the subregion.

volatile

"While it is true that Taylor should account for his actions, the volatile nature of the subregion and its economic deterioration demands that Taylor be tried at The Hague or elsewhere because of such special circumstances in order to create a climate of peace and stability since he still has the money and the available recruits to cause destability in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"Moreover, the principal witnesses like Ruf leader,

Foday Sankoh and his main connection with the former Liberian president, Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie, are both dead.

crimes

"I'm sure both Morris Kallon and Ruf leader Issa Sesay presently before the Special Court didn't know much about transactions between Taylor, Maskita and Sankoh or with other supportive countries of the Ruf movement like these two principal witnesses.

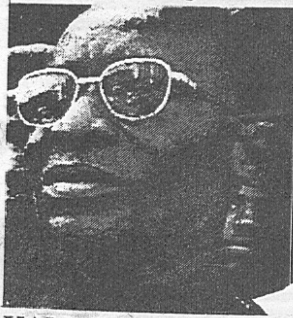
"And since these key witnesses are dead, it could give the Mano River Union states a respite from the hangovers of our recent terrible past and increase stability within the subregion by taking him to account for his crimes in both Liberia and Sierra Leone," Kamara said.

The NLFHR chairman also said that the continuity of the Special Court trial itself could be deeply undermined if not obliterated if president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is not brought to testify before the Special Court, since the indictees and other international witnesses like former British High Commissioner, Peter Penfold and

Brig-Gen David Julian Richards have all pointed to president Kabbah as the principal witness behind the trial of former Kamajor chieftain Hinga Norman and two others for crimes against humanity.

boost

He also cited the fragility of the Yenga situation with neighbouring Guinea, the pending 2007 elections which would be most crucial to Sierra Leone's future plus the need to help boost the new Liberian presidency as well as the rattling signs in Guinea as key factors to ensure that while locals are confined to face the Special Court, Taylor from Liberia should be tried either in Liberia or elsewhere but not in Sierra Leone for the peace and stability of the subregion, amongst others.



KAMARA: activist

Awareness Times

23 March 2006

Forum of Conscience supports Charles Taylor hand over

Forum of Conscience a Sierra Leone based Human Rights organization has welcomed the request by her Excellency the president of Liberia Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the

General Assembly for the immediate commencement of consultations among African heads of State on the extradition of Mr. Charles

Contd page 2

Forum of Conscience supports Charles Taylor hand over

From front page

Taylor former president of Liberia to answer to war crime charges in Sierra Leone.

In a press statement issued Tuesday afternoon, the FOC notes, "It is important to note however, that the arrival of Mr. Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone is long overdue though it is better late than never."

The Executive Director of FOC, Mr. John Caulker in a later statement also said, "[The timing of the request and that of the remaining Span of the Special Court justifies that talks between the administration of the Special Court and the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague should commence immediately to ensure that indictees and would be indictees who might escape justice in Sierra Leone are brought before the ICC."



*Charles Taylor:
Expected in Sierra Leone soon*

The Human Rights organization went on to urge African Heads of State to realize that the people of Sierra Leone deserve the right to know the level of the alleged involvement of Mr. Charles Taylor in committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in their country.

Concord Times

21 March 2006

RUFPP Cash Strapped

Jonathan Kposowa, Secretary General of the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFPP) Monday admitted that the RUFPP is cash strapped.

Kposowa says the RUFPP is facing serious financial troubles impeding the political outfit to carry out its activities.

Making this confession in an exclusive interview with Concord Times, Kposowa says even though the party has support nationally and internationally, it is still difficult for them to run the affairs of the party.

"Most of the buildings housing our party offices in the provincial towns have been reclaimed by their owners on the grounds that they are using them as centers for other activities," he said and noted that they have people who can sponsor the party but it can only be done when there is an agreement between the leadership of the party and the sponsors.

"The Interim Leader Issa Sesay who is internationally recognized can't sign any document on behalf of the party. He is in detention at the Special Court and some of us cannot do any transaction without appending his signature," Kposowa said and observed that leadership is also another problem facing the party.

"We have started holding consultative meetings to chart the way forward ahead of the 2007 general elections. Other political parties are everyday contacting us to form an alliance. We are strictly considering certain prospects of an alliance," he said.

Christian Science Monitor

23 March 2006

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0323/p06s02-woaf.html>

African leaders face key tests on justice

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Washington this week asked for Charles Taylor to be tried for war crimes.

By Claire Soares | Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor

DAKAR, SENEGAL - It's the latest test of whether African leaders can solve the continent's thorny problems. Will heads of state work together to put one of their own - former Liberian President Charles Taylor - on trial for war crimes?

Although Mr. Taylor stoked a 14-year civil war at home, it is in neighboring Sierra Leone that he is wanted on 17 counts of crimes against humanity for supporting rebels in return for diamonds during a decade-long conflict that killed some 50,000 people.

The notorious warlord has been holed up in Nigeria since August 2003, and for months Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo promised he would end Taylor's exile if an elected Liberian government asked. But when new Liberia President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on Friday formally requested that Taylor be handed over to the war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, Mr. Obasanjo balked, saying he must talk to other African leaders.

"It's difficult to see why regional leaders need to be consulted," says Desmond de Silva, the chief prosecutor at the Sierra Leone Special Court, which has been after Taylor for three years.

Optimists see Obasanjo's change of course as an attempt to guarantee political cover for a decision that will not be universally popular among fellow African heads of state. Pessimists fear it's a stalling tactic to maintain a charade of bringing Taylor to justice while allowing him to slip through the net.

"We are pessimistic. This is just a ploy to delay," says Sulaiman Jabati of the Coalition for Justice and Accountability in Sierra Leone. "They will not want to set a standard that they might fall prey to tomorrow."

Corinne Dufka, the West Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch agrees: "Many sitting and former heads of state have blood on their hands or have been accused of massive corruption and it could be there are concerns about setting a precedent."

A test for African justice

The court in Sierra Leone that indicted Taylor has a limited time frame, and when the last of its other war-crimes trials wraps up, expected to be sometime in 2007 according to court officials, it would be difficult to justify keeping it running.

So now, observers say, the onus is squarely on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a 15-nation regional body, and the continent-wide African Union (AU) to prove they can do what they have so often requested: handle their own affairs without Western interference.

With the continent jointly clamoring for a permanent UN Security Council seat for a to-be-determined African nation, justice is up there on the scorecard along with human rights, peace and security, freedom of the press, anti-corruption, and good governance.

"[African leaders'] commitment to justice and fighting impunity is now being tested," says Ms. Dufka. "They cannot pass up the opportunity to ensure justice for thousands of Africans."

Senior ECOWAS sources say the Taylor issue would be discussed by regional heads of state and added to the group's agenda for next month's extraordinary meeting.

President Johnson-Sirleaf, however, added pressure on Tuesday when she reiterated her call for Taylor's transferral after a meeting with President Bush in the White House. "We think [African leaders] now must - since we've given the word that we want it brought to closure - take the decision on the next step to take it to the court," she said.

The other case: 'Africa's Pinochet'

The AU has already been asked once this year to decide on a request for a former head of state to stand trial. That concerned Hissène Habré, the one-time ruler of Chad whose government is accused of 40,000 political killings and 200,000 cases of torture, earning him the nickname "Africa's Pinochet."

In November, Senegal, where Mr. Habré has lived for the past 15 years, referred an extradition request from Belgium to the AU, which in January appointed a committee to consider the case. The European Parliament last week called on Senegal to bring Habré to trial or extradite him to Belgium.

Some observers note that the sensitivities raised in the Habré case - namely the possibility of a European country, and former colonial ruler, meting out justice in Africa - are not an issue when it comes to Taylor.

If African leaders were to approve Taylor's extradition, he would be tried in the UN-backed Special Court - on African soil, with some African judges on the bench. Thus, many analysts say, it comes down to the simple question of whether the immunity of top leaders that has long stunted democratic growth on the continent will again triumph over accountability.

Taylor's advisers have cried conspiracy and maintain that transferring the ex-leader from Nigeria risks destabilizing both Liberia, where the former warlord still has thousands of supporters and his ex-wife is now a senator, and Sierra Leone, where the last UN peacekeepers have now left.

Mr. De Silva concedes the possibility that Nigeria may only consent to Taylor leaving if he is tried in a more neutral atmosphere, in which case the Special Court could sit at The Hague.

But putting Taylor in the dock one way or the other would be a judicial coup for the Sierra Leone prosecutors, whose other high-profile defendant, rebel leader Foday Sankoh, died in custody.

"With Milosevic no longer around, if Taylor is brought to court, he could be the first head of state in history to have been indicted in office and have his trial completed," de Silva says.

At the moment, the prosecutor believes that Obasanjo's decision to consult with African leaders stems from not wanting to shoulder the burden alone. "But there will come a point, if things are delayed too long, that an ulterior motive will become apparent."

U.S. Department of State

22 March 2006

Sirleaf Credits Bush for Ridding Liberia of Charles Taylor Warns Washington audience of "despot's" continued influence

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says President Bush was instrumental in freeing Liberia of Charles Taylor, whom she described in a speech in Washington as an exiled "despot" who still exerts "influence" on the struggling nation.

After a runoff election in November 2005, Sirleaf became the first elected woman head of state in Africa.

On March 21, Sirleaf spoke at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in Washington.

Sirleaf told the gathering of foreign policy specialists, "We made this visit essentially in response to President Bush's kind invitation, but to use that opportunity to thank him, to thank the U.S. government, to thank the American people for all that was done to support Liberia in its transition from war to peace.

"It took the courage of President Bush to actually put the pressure on that led to the process of change and took a despot into exile," she said.

During her visit to the United States, Sirleaf addressed a joint session of Congress and met with President Bush and other top U.S. officials. (See related article.)

At the CFR session she answered questions on various topics, including security and development.

Asked about the security situation in Liberia, Sirleaf said: "There's still pockets of discontent, persons who have lost power as a result of the election. We stand a chance of some insurgency," in part, she added, because "we still have the Charles Taylor issue and the influence which he continues to have on the country and the implications of that."

However, she quickly added, "But we believe that we've got enough going for us in terms of our commitment to the people, being responsive to their needs ... that far greater numbers are on the side of peace and stability and that we can move the nation forward."

Asked about the current status of Taylor after her recent request to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to release him from exile for trial by the International Criminal Court in Sierra Leone, Sirleaf said, "The process stands right now in the hands of the primary African leadership: the host of Mr. Taylor, President Obasanjo of Nigeria; the chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, President [Mamadou] Tandja of Niger; the current chairman of the African Union, [President Denis] Sassou-Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville."

She added, "Liberia believes that this matter ought to be brought to closure, that we want to get on with the business of fulfilling our development agenda and responding to the needs of our people."

Sirleaf was asked about the assistance plan called the Government Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP), which is controversial because of a provision mandated by international donors calling for outside management of funds expended in the program. (See related article.)

Describing GEMAP as "a partnership arrangement," Sirleaf acknowledged: "It's a response to our own government, our transitional government's failure to manage our resources properly. It's a financial management mechanism, an arrangement to which we are committed."

She added, however: "GEMAP is a temporary arrangement. I should tell you that there is confidence in our own ability to manage our affairs, and it will come."

"If we did a 10-year development program, we'd say we need a billion dollars. But we also want to be pragmatic based upon our absorptive capacity, so that we take it progressively," Sirleaf said.

Human Rights Watch

23 March 2006

Nigeria: Comply With Liberia's Request on Taylor

(Lagos, March 23, 2006) – Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo should promptly comply with Liberian President Johnson-Sirleaf's request for former Liberian President Charles Taylor to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Campaign Against Impunity said today. Today marks the 15th anniversary of the devastating armed conflict in Sierra Leone, which began on March 23, 1991, when rebel groups launched a cross-border attack from Liberia on a small village in the Kailahun district. Members of the Campaign Against Impunity are holding news conferences today in Monrovia, Freetown, and Lagos to press for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court.

"President Johnson-Sirleaf has taken a crucial stand against impunity in Africa by requesting Taylor's surrender," said Ezekiel Pajibo, director of the Center for Democratic Empowerment in Liberia, a group that is part of the Campaign Against Impunity.

"Now President Obasanjo must demonstrate that he too cares about justice on the continent by handing Taylor over to the Special Court," said Shina Loremikan, director of programmes for the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, a Nigerian organization that is also part of the Campaign.

Charles Taylor has been indicted on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the armed conflict that lasted from 1991 to 2002. The crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labor by armed opposition groups.

In 2003 Charles Taylor left Liberia for Nigeria where he remains. Nigeria acted with the support of the United States, the African Union and other actors in the international community in taking Taylor in as a temporary measure to secure a peaceful transition in Liberia.

President Obasanjo has resisted surrendering Charles Taylor to the Special Court. He has indicated, however, that he would consider returning Charles Taylor to Liberia upon a request from a duly-elected Liberian government. Accordingly reported, Johnson-Sirleaf made a request to Obasanjo, a move publicized on March 17.

"How many years must the victims keep waiting to see justice done?" said Sulaiman Jabati, the executive secretary of the Sierra Leonean Coalition for Justice and Accountability, also part of the Campaign Against Impunity. "It is time for Taylor to face trial for his alleged crimes."

In a statement issued by the Nigerian government last Friday, Obasanjo said he would consult with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the request. Johnson-Sirleaf has also indicated that she wants consultation between Obasanjo and regional leaders on this issue. Nevertheless, Johnson-Sirleaf is equally clear that following such consultation, Taylor should face trial.

"It is a fundamental principle of criminal justice that justice delayed is justice denied," said Kolawole Olaniyan, Africa Programme director at Amnesty International.

"As President Johnson-Sirleaf has said, time is of the essence," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. "Consultation must not delay justice."

In January 2006 the African Union reiterated its commitment to fight impunity consistent with the provisions of its Constitutive Act. The Campaign Against Impunity urges African leaders to give this commitment meaning by expressing support for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court.

The Campaign Against Impunity is a coalition made up of some 300 African and international civil society groups formed to ensure the surrender of Charles Taylor to the Special Court. It was set up in 2002 to try "those most responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity" in the Sierra Leone conflict.

BBC

22 March 2006

Should Taylor be extradited?

Now that Liberia has formally asked Nigeria to extradite former President Charles Taylor, is the time right?



Mr Taylor stood down as Liberian leader and went into exile in Nigeria in 2003 under an international deal to end Liberia's 14-year civil war.

Liberian Information Minister Johnny McClain told the BBC that if the request was granted, Mr Taylor would be sent straight to Sierra Leone where a UN-backed war crimes tribunal wants to put him on trial for backing Sierra Leone rebels.

Should Mr Taylor be surrendered to face charges of war crimes? Is the time right? Or should Liberia focus on rebuilding the country? What would Mr Taylor's extradition to the Special Court in Sierra Leone achieve? Have you ever met Mr Taylor?

*Send us your views and experiences using the form on the right. Or you can send us an SMS text message to **+44 77 86 20 20 08**. If you would like to take part in the **Africa Have Your Say** radio programme on Thursday 23 March at 1600 GMT, please include a telephone number. It will not be published.*

Your comments:

I want to advise Madam President of Liberia to let the sleeping dog lie. If Taylor is sent to Liberia, you will have a problem on your hands. You might think the UN peace keeping force will save you. But there are people ready to die for Taylor out of love. Obasanjo should know that an agreement is an agreement . The man Taylor stood down on a condition, please keep that condition. Don't betray him or no other warlord will agree to peace plans.

Louis Anusionwu, Dakar, Senegal

Mr Taylor is a war criminal but sending him to the war crimes tribunal will only inflict more pain on the Liberian people. The money that will be used to house, secure and prosecute him should be used to feed the thousands of people he left miserable. After all we saw no big fish successful prosecuted in Freetown and he may just be confined to die as Milosevic did.

Azan, Liberia

I cannot support Mrs Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's decision on this issue of indictment of former Liberia president. Caution is needed before Charles Taylor is being send to stand trial before the UN back war crime tribunal in Sierra Leone. There must be consultation from both Nigeria government, which is sheltering him and the international community, especially US president George Bush, which forced Mr Taylor from his country and sent him to exile in Nigeria. It should not be up to Liberian and Sierra Leonean citizens to decide whether Mr Taylor will go trial or not.

Pal Gatkuoth Deng, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

If the people of Liberia are really interested in peace, I would suggest the former President Taylor be left in Nigeria. Any effort to call for Mr Taylor to go on trial may result in a further conflict. This would neither favour them, nor it would favour the African nations in general.

Toyin, Egypt

Just by handing Mr Taylor over, they will be sending a message to all those criminal dictators.

Mesfin, Eritrean in Oakland, US

Nigeria's president undertook to extradite Charles Taylor should the new Liberian government ask for this.

Johnson Sirleaf now

apparently has - although I heard her say that she had

asked Nigeria's president to consult with other regional leaders on whether Nigeria should extradite Taylor. On balance, however, it seems right that Taylor should be extradited to stand trial in Liberia before the Sierra Leone war crimes tribunal. After all, Liberians suffered at his hands before others in the region.

Seamus Cleary, Baku, Azerbaijan

“
should be extradited to stand trial in Liberia before the
 ”
 Seamus Cleary, Azerbaijan

Taylor should tell the world his motive for staging the war. Taylor should not be an exception, he should be made to account for all his action and the agony innocent citizens suffered during his reign.

Makinde Ayodeji

How are the mighty fallen
 Power, prestige all forgotten
 Wealth & Riches now rotting
 But who shall try him for his crimes
 Whose duty is it to ensure his demise?
 For he hath not roth this destruction alone
 Hence why must he face the music on his own?
 Shall not the merchants of death & buyers of diamond & oil
 Partake of his pain, as they did in his spoil?
 For if he alone the man we burn
 We merely save the others, who may run away

But return to have another turn

Machiavelli Nicoloo, Fulham, London

Mr Taylor should not just be extradited, he should be made to answer questions as regards the wars in some West African countries. But, I think Mrs Johnson Sirleaf's speed in the request makes it look as if there is an old game to be completed between the two of them. The request is a noble one but... it is too soon. Anyway, good luck to her.

Nnamdi John-Paul, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

I join my Liberian masters in saying: Mr Taylor must be taken into custody to be tried for war crimes & it is past time to do it. Liberia's president is focused upon & bent upon rebuilding Liberia, as are all Liberians everywhere. Mr Taylor's trial, a fair trial, is an essential element of the peace & reconciliation process, as it was in South Africa & elsewhere.

Larry Lynch, Whitehall, PA, USA

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 March 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Sirleaf Wins Bush Pledge to Aid Liberia's Reconstruction

By VOA News
22 March 2006

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says the Bush administration has promised to support her country's emergency infrastructure needs.

In a VOA interview, Mrs. Sirleaf says her meeting at the White House with President Bush on Tuesday went "exceptionally well." The two leaders discussed ways the United States can help Liberia's transition to democracy after 14 years of civil war.

Mrs. Sirleaf says U.S. assistance will help Liberia restructure its security forces and develop programs to help thousands of youths affected by war. She adds that her country is counting on the presence of U.N. peacekeeping forces for three to four more years.

The Liberian president says she hopes the United Nations will remove economic sanctions on Liberia's forestry sector in June. Authorities in Monrovia are still working, she says, to meet conditions for lifting U.N. sanctions on the diamond industry.

Mrs. Sirleaf says she is hopeful that Nigeria will heed a request to extradite former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is wanted on U.N. war-crimes charges. Taylor currently lives in exile in Nigeria, but Mrs. Sirleaf says Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has been discussing the case with other African leaders who helped negotiate Taylor's departure from Liberia in 2003.

President Sirleaf is near the end of a weeklong U.S. visit in which she made warmly received speeches to Congress and the U.N. Security Council. She also received a \$25-million pledge from the World Bank for Liberia's reconstruction.

Local Media – Newspapers

Presidents Johnson-Sirleaf and Bush Hold Fruitful Talks

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst and The Informer)

- The White House said yesterday that talks between President Johnson-Sirleaf and President George Bush focused on the way forward Liberia as seeks to recover from years of civil war. The two leaders had a full agenda, including discussion of the fate of former President Taylor.

Speaker to Lobby Support for President's Decision on Taylor's Handover

(New Democrat)

- House Speaker Edwin Snowe told *New Democrat* yesterday that the House was waiting to hold consultations with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on the issue of the extradition of former President Taylor, but would support any decision of the President. He added that he would lobby his colleagues in the House to lend full support to the President.

UK Provides US\$4 Million for Police Restructuring

(The News and The Inquirer)

- Responding to an appeal by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the UK recently agreed to provide nearly US\$4 million to support the reform of the Liberia National Police (LNP), by funding the retirement of long serving and disabled officers. This will allow newly-trained police officers to develop in their roles and will provide the LNP with a greater degree of financial stability, British Ambassador to Liberia John Mitchiner said.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

UN Envoy Dedicates Major Bridge in Southeastern Liberia

- Dedicating a bridge constructed by UNMIL over River Gee in River Gee County recently, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss said that roads were not only viable aspects of economic growth, they also ensure security, the free movement of people and unify countries.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Taylor's Associates Go Through Preliminary Probe

- Addressing journalists yesterday, Solicitor-General Tiawan Gongloe said that the government had concluded its investigation of several associates of former leader Charles Taylor who had been suspected of holding secret meetings to destabilize Liberia. The suspects were former Bomi County Senator Sando Johnson, former butler to the president, David Norris and one Elma Smallwood.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

China to Provide Short-Wave Transmitters to State-owned Broadcaster

- Speaking during a visit to the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) yesterday, the Chinese embassy's Economic and Commercial Counselor, Xheng Yeng, said that his country was prepared to upgrade LBS' facilities, by installing a short-wave transmitter and other needed equipment.

STAR RADIO *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Taylor's Former Aide on Media Wants Him to Face Justice

- A former media aide of former leader Taylor, Bill Frank Enoayi, implored Taylor to exonerate himself of war crimes charges, by appearing before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.