

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



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:

Wednesday, 30 September 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awoko Online

Wednesday, 30 September 2009

“We are a responsible court”- Acting Registrar

Reacting to a letter written by convicts of the Special Court about serving their jail term in Rwanda, the Acting Registrar of the Special Court Binta Mansaray has stated that they “a responsible court” adding that the prisons in Rwanda have advanced facilities and this is an indication that the court is not just dumping people anywhere.

She reiterated that wherever they (convicts) serve their sentences would be a place that meets the international minimum standards.

Mrs. Mansaray stated further that the courts always maintain international minimum standards in terms of treatment of prisoners “so wherever convicts are serving their sentences we would make sure that that country or prison facility meets international minimum standards in every respect ... we are a responsible court” she said.

The decision of the place where the convict should serve their jail term the Acting Registrar disclosed is a judicial decision which is made only by the President of the Special Court and it is non-negotiable. It is a decision that lies within the powers of the President of the Court it is not an administrative function. She added that “Prior to arriving at her decision the President of the Special Court took into consideration several factors and then made her decision so its not for me or anyone else to decide as to where (the convicts will) serve their sentences, the only person who has those powers is the President of the Special Court.”

It was also disclosed by the Acting Registrar of the court that arrangements would be made for family members to visit the convicts but that is not a rule by most international courts “so we don’t have an obligation to do that but the special court is trying to make sure that there is a family visit wherever they are serving their sentences.”

Speaking about the visit of the opposition Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) Mrs. Mansaray said that “the SLPP delegation visited me as administrative head to seek clarifications and to discuss the letters the prisoners wrote to me which was copied to them concerning where they will serve their sentences. They came to me and they want to seek clarification on the letter so they came to me. As a judicial institution we are transparent and open we receive any individual or group who may wish to seek clarification on matters of interest to them so that is why I met with the delegation that came.”

She went on “they had questions about the detention facility in Rwanda we explained to them that the detention facility meets international minimum standards and they appealed for the president to review her decision and I said to them that I will convey the message to the president and I also made it clear to them that judicial proceedings of the special court are not negotiable.”

As to the date for the departure of the convicts the Acting Registrar said that no one in the court can tell the exact date for the departure of the convicts.

By Betty Milton

Taylor Denies Knowledge Of Guinea Attack

Charles Taylor has denied having any prior knowledge of rebel plans to invade Sierra Leone in 1991, adding that he did not order Sierra Leonean rebel forces to attack Guinea in 2000.

By Alpha B. Kamara

"I did not know of any prior plans for the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991," Taylor said on Wednesday in The Hague.

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Taylor denied allegations that in 2000, he ordered the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone to attack Guinea because he believed that the Guinean government of Lansana Conte was supporting Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels who were threatening to unseat his government in Liberia.

But on Wednesday he told the court that he was too busy with other issues to have focused on attacking Guinea.

"We were being attacked by LURD from Guinea but I was equally busy with other issues that were not war-like," he said.

Mr. Taylor also said if he ever wanted to attack Guinea, he had Liberians at

his disposal for that purpose rather than using Sierra Leonean rebel forces.

"It was in my best interest to attack Guinea but why not use Liberians for that?" Mr. Taylor asked.

Mr. Taylor was responding to the testimony of a Prosecution witness, Marvin Mansaray, who in his March 2008 testimony testified that sometime in July 2000, RUF commander Issa Sesay told RUF fighters that Mr. Taylor had given an order for them to attack Guinea and that Mr. Taylor provided arms and ammunition, including bombs, for the operation.

Abu Keita, another witness in his January 2008 testimony told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that after the release of UN peacekeepers held hostage by RUF rebels in 2000, Mr. Taylor gave orders to the RUF to

attack Guinea.

The attack, Keita said, was led by RUF commander called Short Bai Bureh and that Taylor gave RUF commander Mr. Sesay a satellite phone and 50 boxes of ammunition.

Taylor however denied any of the accusations.

Mr. Taylor also dismissed as lies, the testimonies of both Witnesses Mansaray and Keita that he (Taylor) provided weapons for RUF rebels to facilitate their operations in Sierra Leone.

Mansaray in his March 2008 testimony said sometime in April 1999, Taylor supplied weapons to the RUF, including an anti aircraft twin barrel gun.

The weapons, the witness said, were presented at a muster parade in Magburaka, northern Sierra Leone; but Taylor denied supplying the RUF with any such weapon.

"No I did not. To have had a weapon of that sort means we did not disarm. A twin barrel anti aircraft gun is not a little piece of equipment," Mr. Taylor said. "It takes two

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Taylor Denies Knowledge

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operators to fire that weapon and it is manned by a squad of ten men. It's not a little toy. It's a blatant, blatant lie."

Taylor further dismissed Keita's allegations that together with RUF Commander Sam Bockarie and Taylor's Special Security Service (SSS) commander, Benjamin Yeaten, he (Keita) had visited Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence in October 1998.

"I didn't know the gentleman, never met him," Mr Taylor said.

"We are talking about October 1998. I was not living in White Flower at this time. I moved there on my birthday in January 1999," he added.

Keita testified in January 2008 that he was recruited by Benjamin Yeaten, on Mr. Taylor's orders, to join the RUF in Sierra Leone and establish a unit there called the Scorpion Unit, but failed

to tender it in court.

According to the witness, the said letter was kept at his mother's house in Monrovia but was destroyed by fire when LURD rebels attacked Monrovia and burnt his mother's house.

Mr. Taylor denied the witness's testimony, accusing him of having joined another rebel faction leader, Roosevelt Johnson, to fight against his (Taylor's) forces.

"Abu Keita's evidence is a blatant and intentional fabrication. I think he designed this," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor also told the court how he executed four

of his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) Generals for conniving against him and helping the RUF in attacking Sierra Leone.

The four men who were executed were Sam Lato, Oliver Vanney, Anthony Menkunagbe and Sam Towah.

"They put together a group called Black Ghadafa, an anti-NPFL group planning later on to kill me and destroy the leadership of the NPFL," Mr. Taylor said. "They were arrested and it was at that investigation that it came out that they were involved with Foday Sankoh. That is why they were killed."

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hoped Guinea's human rights record would improve.

"We were already getting signs that this wouldn't in fact happen, but now we've seen a repetition of the army's traditional resort to

violence when facing protest," he told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

The military takeover initially had some popular support, but in recent weeks there have been several anti-government protests.

NaCSA Pays Reparation To War Victims In Bo

By Hassan Juana Koroma

National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) in collaboration with Hope Sierra Leone last Friday organized a two-day symbolic reparation ceremony for war victims at the Bo City Hall, Coronation Field. Addressing the gathering, His Lordship the Mayor of Bo, Dr. Wusu Sannoh after observing a minute silence for war victims said the said reparation was born out of the desire of government to compensate war victims as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation

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NaCSA Pays Reparation To War Victims In Bo

Commission (TRC).

Dr. Sannoh maintained that the Government of Sierra Leone joined other humanitarian agencies to help the war victims in Sierra Leone.

In his contribution, the Deputy Commissioner General of NaCSA, Charles Rogers recalled the agony and destruction of lives and property during the eleven year rebel. He said NaCSA took the onus to take care of thousands of war victims for

reparation due to the inadequate resources from donors, adding that the reparation exercise is presently targeting forty chiefdoms out of one hundred and forty-nine chiefdoms in the country.

Mr. Buya Kamara, Director of Reparations in his contribution described the day as a social solidarity day in Sierra Leone in honour of those who lost their lives during the eleven year rebel war.

He later said that the reparation targets five categories of people such as the war wounded, war victims, orphans, raped women and amputees.

Mr. Kamara further said that in order to maintain and sustain the reparation programme, government, he said is planning to launch a Trust Fund.

A testimony by an amputee, Sallay Gobo of Mattru formed the highlight of the occasion.

BBC WORLD SERVICE TRUST

Tuesday, 29 September 2009

John Kollie

A Prosecution witness told the court in 2008 that Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor instructed the Revolutionary United Front, RUF to invade Sierra Leonean, Capital Freetown. The Prosecution evidence also indicated that Mr. Taylor received more than nine plastic bags of diamonds for three shipments of arms supplied to the RUF for the invasion of Freetown and other Sierra Leonean Towns. Mr. Taylor described the allegation as total nonsense. The Former Liberian Leader also denied burying a pregnant woman alive during his rebel days in Liberia. John Kollie transcribes reports for the BBC World Service from The Hague on the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor...

On January 6, 1999, a joint RUF Rebel and the Military Junta operation invaded the Sierra Leonean Capital, Freetown and carried out alleged indiscriminate amputation, murder and rape.

A Prosecution witness alleged last year that the plan to invade Freetown originated with Mr. Charles Taylor who is being tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The witness had claimed that Mr. Taylor said the objective of the invasion was to free imprisoned RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh and to force the Sierra Leone Government to the negotiating table.

But Mr. Taylor dismissed the allegation. The Prosecution Witness had further alleged that from 1997 to 1999 Mr. Taylor received 90 carats of diamonds in addition to nine plastic bags full of diamonds for three major shipments of arms to the RUF.

The Prosecution evidence had claimed that the three major shipments to the rebels were delivered by Mr. Taylor's representative to the RUF, Abraham Barh.

Mr. Taylor said he had no contact with Abraham Barh. The Former Liberian President also denied the testimonies of one of his Secret Service Personnel who told the court last year that Mr. Taylor ordered the burial of a pregnant woman on a beach in Monrovia in 1995.

The Prosecution Liberian witness, Zigzag Marzah had also alleged that he and Mr. Taylor were members of a human eating society. Mr. Taylor denied engaging in cannibalism or burying a pregnant woman alive.

The Former Liberian President and Lead Defence, Courtenay Griffiths are examining in court the testimonies of some key Prosecution witnesses with the intent to point out inconsistencies and contradictions.

BBC WORLD SERVICE TRUST

CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Tuesday, 29 September 2009

Liberia: Taylor Says He Did Not Order Rebel Attack on Freetown; Calls Zig Zag Marzah A ?Liar?

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor did not order Sierra Leonean rebel forces to attack the nation's capital Freetown and to free the group's leader from jail in 1999, he said during his trial in The Hague today. Mr. Taylor also dismissed as "lies" the testimony of one of his former commanders that he was the "boss" of both Sierra Leonean and Liberian rebel groups during both countries' conflicts.

The former Liberian president was responding to claims by a former insider of Sierra Leone's rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), that the group had received orders and supplies of arms and ammunition from Mr. Taylor in 1998 to attack Sierra Leone's capital Freetown and free RUF leader Foday Sankoh from jail there.

"That I sent people to Freetown to free Sankoh is a blatant lie," Mr. Taylor said.

The protected witness, whose testimony Mr. Taylor sought to discredit, told judges in October 2008 that RUF commanders started discussing plans to attack Freetown in 1998. He said that while Mr. Sankoh was in jail, the group's interim leader, Sam Bockarie, did not listen to members of the RUF War Council, of which the witness himself was a member. Rather, Mr. Bockarie traveled to Liberia to seek advice from Mr. Taylor and returned from Liberia with direct instructions from Mr. Taylor that the RUF should attack Freetown, the witness said.

"The instruction to attack Freetown originated from Taylor" and it was a "planned invasion," the witness had told the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2008.

In an effort to distance himself from any such plans to attack Freetown, Mr. Taylor told the judges today that "I sure did not plan it. I don't know if Sankoh did, but I did not. I did not plan any invasion of Freetown, never."

The protected witness had also said that the weapons used in the Freetown attack were obtained from Burkina Faso and deposited in Liberia before they were eventually taken to the RUF in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor said that he had no knowledge of such shipment of weapons into Liberia.

"I have nothing to do with this so I really don't know what this man is talking about," the accused former president said.

"Bockarie went to Burkina Faso in 1998 with the acquiescence of the international community. If he came with arms and ammunition from Burkina Faso via Liberia, I did not know but if somebody came with such huge amount of arms and ammunition like that into Liberia, I would have known," Mr. Taylor explained further.

Mr. Taylor also denied the witness' claims that between 1997 and 1999, Mr. Taylor facilitated three major shipments of arms and ammunition for use by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. The witness said that diamonds were given to Mr. Taylor in return for the shipments. According to the witness, the RUF gave Mr. Taylor, "through his special envoy to the RUF Ibrahim Bah" about 90 carats of diamonds as payment for the first

shipment of weapons. As payment for the remaining two shipments, Mr. Bockarie personally delivered nine plastics of diamonds to Mr. Taylor.

“This is a number of complicated lies in this thing. It is so terrible. It’s a lie, no diamonds were given to me,” Mr. Taylor asserted.

Mr. Taylor is accused by the Special Court’s prosecution team of controlling the RUF rebels, including by planning attacks and supplying weapons for the RUF’s activities in Sierra Leone during the country’s conflict. Mr. Taylor is accused of receiving the country’s diamonds from RUF rebels as payment for the supply of weapons. By his actions or inactions, the prosecution alleges that Mr. Taylor is responsible for the crimes committed by rebel forces in Sierra Leone.

Also in his testimony today, Mr. Taylor dismissed as “lies” the evidence of “Zig Zag” Marzah, a former member of Mr. Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), who in his 2008 testimony told the judges that Mr. Taylor was the overall boss of both the RUF and NPFL. Marzah said that the RUF and NPFL were one and the same group. He said that when NPFL rebels crossed the Sierra Leonean border, they became part of the RUF and when RUF rebels moved to the Liberian side of the border, they became part of the NPFL. They all looked up to Mr. Taylor for instructions, Mr. Marzah had said.

“It is a proofing lie. RUF and NPFL were never the same,” Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Marzah also told the judges in his 2008 testimony that as Mr. Taylor’s Chief of Operations, he was in charge of Mr. Taylor’s operations in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast. (Mr. Taylor is also accused of sending RUF rebels to attack Guinea and Ivory Coast at different times). Mr. Taylor dismissed the witness’ claims.

“I swear to God. Taylor will have a man who cannot read or write and he is going to put him in charge of three countries? This man is sick. It is not true,” Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor also denied several other claims by the witness, including claims that Mr. Marzah took diamonds mined by the RUF to Mr. Taylor on several occasions; that Mr. Taylor gave him arms and ammunition from his White Flower residence to take to the RUF in Sierra Leone; that Mr. Taylor had a pregnant woman buried at the back of his White Flower residence; and that Mr. Taylor gave him orders to execute many people including civilians.

“This boy is just one of the liars they brought for this case and he has really messed it up,” Mr. Taylor said.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Monday, 28 September 2009

Liberia: Taylor Did Not Know of Sierra Leone Attack Plans, Nor Order A Rebel Attack On Guinea, He Says

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor did not have any prior knowledge of rebel plans to invade Sierra Leone in 1991, and contrary to prosecution allegations against him, he did not order Sierra Leonean rebel forces to attack Guinea in 2000, he told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges last week.

"I did not know of any prior plans for the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991," the accused former Liberian president said on Wednesday in The Hague.

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Taylor denied allegations that in 2000, he ordered Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone to attack Guinea because he believed that the Guinean government of Lansana Conte was supporting Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels who were threatening to unseat Mr. Taylor's government in Liberia. According to Mr. Taylor, he was too busy with other issues to have focussed on attacking Guinea.

"We were being attacked by LURD from Guinea but I was equally busy with other issues that were not war-like," he said.

Mr. Taylor also said that if he ever wanted to attack Guinea, he had Liberians at his disposal for that purpose rather than using Sierra Leonean rebel forces.

"It was in my best interest to attack Guinea but why not use Liberians for that?" Mr. Taylor asked.

Mr. Taylor was responding to the testimony of a Prosecution witness, Marvin Mansaray, who in his March 2008 testimony testified that sometime in July 2000, RUF commander Issa Sesay told RUF fighters that Mr. Taylor had given an order for them to attack Guinea. The witness said that Mr. Taylor provided arms and ammunition, including bombs, for the operation.

Witness Mansaray's testimony reinforced an earlier witness' testimony, Abu Keita, who in his January 2008 testimony told the Special Court for Sierra Leone that after the release of UN peacekeepers who were held hostage by RUF rebels in 2000, Mr. Taylor gave orders to the RUF to attack Guinea. The attack, Witness Keita said, was led by an RUF commander called Short Bai Bureh. The witness said that Mr. Taylor gave RUF commander Mr. Sesay a satellite phone and 50 boxes of ammunition. Mr. Taylor on Tuesday told the judges in his testimony that this never happened.

"Never happened. Oh my dear, it is just too much. It is a blatant lie. There is no such thing as anybody getting even one box of ammunition from me," he said

Mr. Taylor also dismissed as lies, the testimonies of both Witnesses Mansaray and Keita that he (Taylor) provided weapons for RUF rebels to facilitate their operations in Sierra Leone. Witness Mansaray in his March 2008 testimony said that sometime in April 1999, Mr. Taylor supplied the RUF with weapons, including an anti aircraft twin barrel gun. The weapons, the witness said, were presented at a muster parade in Magburaka, northern Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor denied supplying the RUF with any such weapon.

"No I did not. To have had a weapon of that sort means we did not disarm. A twin barrel anti aircraft gun is not a little piece of equipment," Mr. Taylor said. "It takes two operators to fire that weapon and it is manned by a squad of ten men. It's not a little toy. It's a blatant, blatant lie."

Mr. Taylor had the same response for Witness Keita's evidence that Mr. Taylor had provided weapons for use by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor further dismissed Witness Keita's allegations that together with RUF Commander Sam Bockarie and Mr. Taylor's Special Security Service (SSS) commander Benjamin Yeaten, he (Keita) had visited Mr. Taylor's White Flower residence in October 1998. Mr. Taylor today said that he has never even met Witness Keita in person.

"I didn't know the gentleman, never met him," Mr. Taylor said.

"We are talking about October 1998. I was not living in White Flower at this time. I moved there on my birthday in January 1999," he added.

Witness Keita testified in January 2008 that he was recruited by Benjamin Yeaten, on Mr. Taylor's orders, to join the RUF in Sierra Leone and establish a unit there called the Scorpion Unit. Witness Keita said that the letter authorizing his appointment was signed by Mr. Taylor. During his 2008 testimony, however, Witness Keita, did not produce the letter bearing Mr. Taylor's signature in court. According to the witness, the said letter was kept at his mother's house in Monrovia but was destroyed by fire when LURD rebels attacked Monrovia and burnt his mother's house. Mr. Taylor denied the witness's testimony, accusing him of having joined another rebel faction leader, Roosevelt Johnson, to fight against his (Taylor's) forces.

"Abu Keita's evidence is a blatant and intentional fabrication. I think he designed this," Mr. Taylor said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Taylor responded to the testimony of another protected prosecution witness, who in his 2008 testimony reinforced prosecution allegations that Mr. Taylor was part of a common design with RUF rebels to attack Sierra Leone in 1991.

In his 2008 testimony, the witness said that in February 1991, he saw Mr. Taylor and RUF leader Foday Sankoh in a convoy. When they got to the Liberian town of Voinjama, they made plans for the RUF to invade Sierra Leone, the witness had testified. The witness further said that he personally sat with Mr. Taylor and discussed the invasion of Sierra Leone.

Dismissing the witness's account as a lie, Mr. Taylor told the court that by February 1991, he had not yet gone to Voinjama.

"It's a lie. I had not even gone from Kakata to Gbangha and so I would not have moved to Voinjama," Mr. Taylor said. "There is no way you can get to Voinjama except you go through Gbangha."

The witness testified to being present at Voinjama in 1991, where he said Mr. Taylor and Mr. Sankoh developed a strategy to attack Sierra Leone from Voinjama, Vahun and Zimmi. Mr. Taylor denied the witness's claim.

"May be he saw a ghost of someone looking like Charles Taylor, it's all a lie," he said. "I was never present there. I never discussed any strategies or plans with Sankoh because I was not there."

Mr. Taylor on Wednesday also told the court how he executed four of his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) Generals for conniving against him and helping the RUF in attacking Sierra Leone. The four men who were executed were Sam Lato, Oliver Vanney, Anthony Menkunagbe and Sam Towah.

"They put together a group called Black Ghadafa, an anti-NPFL group planning later on to kill me and destroy the leadership of the NPFL," Mr. Taylor said. "They were arrested and it was at that investigation that it comes out that they were involved with Foday Sankoh. That is why they were killed."

Several prosecution witnesses who claimed they were forcefully recruited when the RUF invaded Sierra Leone in 1991 had mentioned the names of these executed Generals as part of the group(s) that recruited and trained them in Sierra Leone. These men, they said, were Liberians.

On Thursday, Mr. Taylor also responded to the evidence of a prosecution witness who in his 2008 testimony told the court that while the government of Sierra Leone and the RUF rebels were in the Togolese capital Lome for peace talks in 1999, Mr. Taylor gave a member of the RUF external delegation, Ibrahim Bah, an amount of \$20,000 for the RUF leader Mr. Sankoh. Mr. Taylor said that this was not true.

"If I wanted to send money for Sankoh, I would have done so through the Liberian Foreign Minister who was in Lome. It would have been a good gesture just like Eyadema and Obasanjo did give him money, but I did not," Mr. Taylor said. [Mr. Taylor was referring to former Togolese president, Gnassingbe Eyadema, and former Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo].

According to the witness, Mr. Sankoh was very agitated upon receiving what he called "a peanut" from Mr. Taylor because Mr. Sankoh had received reports that RUF commander Sam Bockarie had given huge amounts of diamonds to Mr. Taylor during Mr. Sankoh's incarceration. Between 1997 and 1999, Mr. Sankoh was in jail in Nigeria and in his absence, Mr. Bockarie acted as leader of the RUF. When rebels attacked Sierra Leone's capital in January 1999, Mr. Sankoh was released and the government of Sierra Leone decided to hold peace talks with the RUF. This led to the signing of the peace agreement between the two parties in the Togolese capital Lome in 1999.

Prosecution witnesses have alleged that during Mr. Sankoh's absence, Mr. Bockarie took orders from Mr. Taylor. Witnesses have also alleged that all diamonds mined by the RUF were given to Mr. Taylor for safe-keeping.

According to the protected witness, whose testimony Mr. Taylor sought to discredit on Thursday, Mr. Sankoh was expecting to receive more money from Mr. Taylor because the former Liberian president was in possession of diamonds on behalf of the RUF. The witness said that Mr. Sankoh did not see it as a gesture for Mr. Taylor to give him the \$20,000. Mr. Taylor dismissed the witness' account.

"This is total foolishness because I did not receive any money or diamonds from Bockarie. If I had sent him that money and he had said that it was peanuts, then it would have been ungrateful of him. Bockarie did not say so in his report to Sankoh," Mr. Taylor said.

The prosecution witness also said that while members of the RUF delegation to the peace talks in Togo were on transit in Liberia, Mr. Taylor gave each of them an amount of \$300. Mr. Taylor admitted in court that while he did give members of the RUF delegation some money, he cannot remember what the exact amount was.

"I did give them some money but I cannot remember the amount. I agree," he said.

Mr. Taylor's also challenged the authenticity of a hand-written report from the Black Revolutionary Guard Unit of the RUF which was presented to Mr. Sankoh after his release in 1999. The report, which was presented last year as a prosecution exhibit, stated that the RUF received support in the form of weapons and military advice from Mr. Taylor while Mr. Sankoh was in custody.

"Why will this individual present a hand-written report when the commander is already there, that the commander cannot sign? This is the part of their handiwork here. This is fabrication, this is what is going on," Mr. Taylor responded.

A 16-page minute of an oral report submitted to Mr. Sankoh after his release in 1999 also indicated that Mr. Taylor received about 1832 pieces of diamonds from the RUF for safekeeping while Mr. Sankoh was in custody. The report, however, does not make any reference to Mr. Taylor giving war-like materials to the RUF. All reference to receipt of war-like materials in the report were about help received from the RUF's "main helper in Burkina Faso."

Mr. Taylor also dismissed allegations that he had a father and son relationship with RUF commander Sam Bockarie. According to prosecution evidence, Mr. Bockarie was very loyal to Mr. Taylor and because of the money Mr. Taylor lavished on him, Mr. Bockarie could not even take commands from the RUF's leader Mr. Sankoh anymore. A prosecution witnesses testified in 2008 that after the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement in 1999, Mr. Bockarie ignored Mr. Sankoh's orders to disarm the RUF rebels and insisted on consulting Mr. Taylor first before proceeding with any such orders from Mr. Sankoh. The witness said it was on this basis that Mr. Bockarie

relocated to Liberia when he fell out with the RUF leader in Sierra Leone. The witness said that the relationship between the two men ended when Mr. Taylor decided to execute Mr. Bockarie and his entire family.

Mr. Taylor dismissed this account, saying "this is all total nonsense."

"He [Bockarie] did not come to Liberia because he was my son but because he had been given the strongest message by ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] that you either do it [disarm] or you move on, and he decided to move on," Mr. Taylor added. He denied allegations that he executed Mr. Bockarie and his family.

Mr. Taylor has been charged by the Prosecution with aiding and abetting the RUF's crimes through the exchange of weapons and other support for diamonds, and also with being in a position of control over the RUF so as to be able to prevent or punish crimes committed by RUF forces. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations. He is presently testifying as a witness in his own defense.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 September 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia Converting Old Rubber Trees to Electricity

Scott Stearns, Voice of America

Work begins this month on a new, environmentally-friendly power plant in Liberia that will use old rubber trees to generate electricity. It is part of a plan to make Liberia the world's first sustainable biomass-driven economy. Natural rubber has anchored the Liberian economy for more than 75 years. The huge Firestone plantation east of the capital, Monrovia, remains the world's largest single natural rubber operation and was one of the first businesses to reopen after Liberia's long civil war. Its continued success is crucial to Liberia's economic recovery. Now, the plantation's eight million rubber trees may help fuel that recovery by producing low-cost electricity. The firm Buchanan Renewable Energies is building a carbon-neutral power plant using woodchips from older rubber trees to generate 35 megawatts of electricity.

Family charged in abuse of adopted Liberian girls

FAIRVIEW, Okla. (AP) — A family is charged with several crimes in what authorities allege constituted physical and sexual abuse of five Liberian girls whom the parents adopted in 2005. Andee Verlon Tyler, 51, and his wife, Penny Tyler, 46, face felony child-abuse charges. Their son, Ashton Malachi Tyler, 20, is charged with rape by instrumentation. Their daughter, Nathania Dellare Tyler, 21, is charged with misdemeanor assault and battery. An officer with an area NAACP chapter claims that the five Liberian-born sisters, ranging in age from 5 to 15, are victims of an international child slavery scam. Authorities allege that the crimes include one of the girls' being tied to chairs and bedposts and denied meals as punishment; and that at age 11, she allegedly was made to sleep outside in the cold for stealing a cookie from the kitchen.

Liberian educator to speak tonight at Ball State

Freshman Connections will bring Lucretia Goe, a professional storyteller and Liberia native who escaped the country during the Civil War of 1991, to Ball State University tonight. Goe now teaches third grade at Tenth Street Elementary School in Anderson, Ind. She will be speaking at 7 p.m. today in Art and Journalism Building Room 175. Freshman Connections coordinator Melinda Messineo said students can expect an interesting and educational presentation. "She will be telling of her life experiences, as well as sharing some stories with students," Messineo said.

International Clips on West Africa

Sierra Leone

Taylor Did Not Know of Sierra Leone Attack Plans, Nor Order A Rebel Attack On

Sep 29, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Charles Taylor did not have any prior knowledge of rebel plans to invade Sierra Leone in 1991, and contrary to prosecution allegations against him, he did not order Sierra Leonean rebel forces to attack Guinea in 2000, he told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges last week. "I did not know of any prior plans for the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991," the accused former Liberian president said on Wednesday in The Hague. Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Taylor denied allegations that in 2000, he ordered Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone to attack Guinea because he believed that the Guinean government of Lansana Conte was supporting Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels who were threatening to unseat Mr. Taylor's government in Liberia. According to Mr. Taylor, he was too busy with other issues to have focused on attacking Guinea.

Guinea

www.time.com

Violent Crackdown Shatters Democracy Hopes in Guinea

When Captain Moussa Dadis Camara took control of **Guinea** last December in a bloodless coup, tens of thousands of cheering supporters thronged the streets of the capital, Conakry, shouting: "Welcome to this change! Welcome to this change!" What a difference 10 months can make. The capital was a scene of chaos on Sept. 28, when soldiers opened fire on crowds of unarmed civilians at a pro-democracy rally in a stadium, killing dozens of people and wounding hundreds, Isabelle Bourges, a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, tells TIME. According to New York-based Human Rights Watch, bodies were also found with knife and bayonet wounds and witnesses saw women being stripped naked in the streets and sexually assaulted by security forces. "They didn't even ask us to disperse. They just started shooting!" protester Bambaya Bari told TIME by telephone from Conakry.

Local Media – Newspaper

Salary Increment for Senior Management Sparks Tension at NPA Director

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, National Chronicle, the Parrot)

- A nearly 100 percent increment has been reported in the salaries of 6 senior officials of the National Port Authority (NPA).
- The officials include the Managing Director Matilda Parker and her Deputies.
- More than a week ago, Mrs. Parker adjusted her salary to US\$8,000.00 plus a monthly tax exemption component of US\$4,000.00. Reports say Madam Parker's salary had been US\$6,700.00.

At House Closing Session, Speaker Calls for Audit of GAC

(The Analyst, Heritage)

- House Speaker Alex Tyler has announced that the House of Representatives will commission an audit of the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- Speaker Tyler said the audit is to make the GAC accountable to the people of Liberia he however did not say what prompted the proposed audit of the GAC.
- He used the occasion to commend the international community and the United Nations for its cardinal role in maintaining peace in Liberia.
- Reports say the program at the Capitol Building was poorly attended as many lawmakers boycotting the occasion.

Dozens Killed in Guinea Protest

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer)

- At least 58 people have been killed after troops in Guinea opened fire on an opposition rally.
- The reports say troops fired at protesters as they gathered in a stadium in the capital, Conakry.

- About 50,000 people took part in the rally against Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, who seized power in a bloodless coup last year.
- The protest was triggered by indications that he is to reverse a pledge not to run in presidential elections planned for January next year.

US\$200M for Lift Liberia Programme

(The Informer)

- United States Ambassador to Liberia, Linda Thomas Greenfield says America will provide US\$200 million to support the Liberian Government's Lift Liberia Programme.
- Speaking at the opening of a four-day national law symposium on trade and commerce, Ambassador Greenfield said the US Government will also modernize the Roberts International Airport and support the country's electrification programme.
- She said the U.S. Government would also help Liberian entrepreneurs through partnership with American entrepreneurs.

Plan-Liberia Trains Over 150 Children...On Child Rights Radio Programs

(The Informer)

- Plan-Liberia has embarked upon the training of several Liberian Children in the area of Child rights Media Club drama productions.
- Making the disclosure over the weekend in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, Plan-Liberia Media Coordinator, Naomi Crusoe-Walker said the organization is interested in helping children improve their lives through access to education.
- Mrs. Walker said Plan Liberia is currently undertaking the program for children as a means of raising awareness on various rights of children. According to her, the organization has recruited over 150 Children in Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, and Bomi Counties for the training.

World Bank "Cash For Work" Beneficiaries Beg for Extension of Programme

(The News)

- Beneficiaries of the World Bank sponsored "cash for work" programme in Bomi County are appealing for the extension of the project.
- The World Bank through the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment is undertaking several community projects under the bank's cash for work programme.
- The programme, which is being implemented by a local NGO, Equip Youth has provided employment for about 1,500 people across the country.

LNP, UNMIL Investigate Burglary at GAC

(The News, Heritage)

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has alarmed about a major burglary on its facilities on Ashmun Street.
- GAC head of communications, Mr. Ernest Maximore, said unknown men broke into the offices of the GAC and made away with several sensitive documents essentials to the work of the GAC.
- Meanwhile, investigators at the Liberia National Police and UNMIL are currently looking into the incident.

Local Media – Star Radio *(culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

House Adjourns, Proposes Audit of GAC

VP Boakai sees Huge Challenges in Education Sector

- Vice President Joseph Boakai says Liberia still faces huge challenges in its education sector.

- Speaking at a forum organized by the Watson Institute for International Studies in the USA, Vice President Boakai said the challenges were visible despite what he called the new wave of partnerships with friendly countries and institutions.

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

Salary Increment for Senior Management Sparks Tension at NPA

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

Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

President Sirleaf Wants Bureaucracies Reduce at Freeport

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is asking the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Finance to reduce the bureaucracies associated with the clearing of goods from the Freeport of Monrovia.
- President Sirleaf said a one-stop shop at the NPA would help ease the stress of business people in obtaining clearances from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Finance to get their goods from the port.
- President Sirleaf spoke Monday at the opening of a 4-day national law symposium on trade and commerce.

Eight Security Officers Undergo Probe for Disappearance of Narcotics

- Eight officers including senior officers of the Liberia National Police are being investigated in connection with the disappearance of 32 kilograms of cocaine.
- A police source said the 32 kilograms of cocaine is a portion of the 50 kilograms of the substance seized from a Nigerian drug dealer.
- The cocaine disappeared at the Zone One Police Station when the Nigerian was transferred to the central Police headquarters. Police spokesman George Bardue has since confirmed the reports.

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

US\$200M for Lift Liberia Programme

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

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Ambassador Greenfield Renew Calls for the Passage of the Threshold Bill

- US Ambassador, Linda Thomas Greenfield has reiterated her government's appeal for the passage of the "controversial" Population Threshold Bill.
- In an interview, Ambassador Greenfield said the bill was crucial to the sustenance of democracy in Liberia and called on the Legislature especially the Senate to consider passing the bill before its agriculture break.

LNP, UNMIL Investigate Burglary at GAC

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

Wednesday, 30 September 2009

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon six months on: A bird's eye view

REPORT

--Editor's note: The Daily Star publishes below excerpts of a report by the president of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Antonio Cassese, presented on September 14 to the Tribunal's Management Committee. The report offers a succinct overview of the activities of the STL in the six months elapsed since its establishment.

1. Introduction

1. This Report is intended to offer a succinct and unvarnished overview of the activities of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) in the six months elapsed since its establishment. I am submitting it in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Article 10(1) of the STL Statute, whereby "The President of the Special Tribunal, in addition to his or her judicial functions, shall [...] be responsible for [the Tribunal's] effective functioning and the good administration of justice."

3. I intend this Report as a means to ensure transparency and accountability vis-à-vis the Management Committee, the Government of Lebanon and other States supporting the work of the STL, but also as a way to stimulate within the Tribunal a constant and critical self-assessment: a sort of taking the pulse of the Tribunal, which should help it to achieve greater efficiency.

4. The Report is written through my eyes as President, although I have much relied on the information kindly provided by the other three Organs – the Registry, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Office of the Defense.

2. Chambers

5. The Tribunal's Chambers are vested with three essential tasks: judicial, regulatory and managerial. In this first period the fulfillment of judicial tasks was limited to the issue of the four Lebanese Generals being detained in Beirut in connection with the Hariri case. In contrast, the Judges have intensely discharged their regulatory function by adopting various sets of Rules and other normative instruments. Finally, the Judges have frozen any recruitment of legal staff and transferred all the financial resources thus saved to the Prosecution so as to enhance the investigative work of the STL in the next year.

(A) Judicial Output

6. Article 4(2) of the Statute provides that within two months of the Prosecutor's taking office the Tribunal shall request the Lebanese authorities to defer to its competence, so that the Tribunal may decide on whether to indict or release the persons detained in Lebanon in connection with the investigations into the Hariri assassination. Acting promptly, on 25 March 2009 the Prosecutor (who had taken office on 1 March 2009) made an application to the Pre-Trial Judge for him to request the Lebanese authorities to defer to the Tribunal's competence on this case. The Lebanese authorities complied and notified that four persons were being held in detention in connection with the Hariri case. Between March 27 and April 29, 2009 the Pre-Trial Judge issued four Orders on the matter, leading – consistently with the request of the Prosecutor – to the four persons being released because of lack of sufficient evidence to justify their continued detention.

7. On April 20, 2009 the Head of the Defense Office requested, on behalf of the four persons detained in Lebanon in connection with the Hariri case, a modification of the conditions of detention. The following day the President issued an Order requesting the Lebanese authorities to grant certain rights to the four detainees, pending any ruling of the Pre-Trial Judge on their final status.

(D) Work in Progress

15. In the next six months the President, in consultation with the other Judges, plans to:

- (i) Draft and issue three Practice Directions (on the Filing of Documents; on Depositions and Taking Witness Statements for use in Court; and on Video-Conference Links) and one internal Protocol (on Conducting Official Court hearings offsite). These documents should smooth the passage to the second stage (submission of indictments by the Prosecutor and initiation of activity by the Pre-Trial Judge and possibly the Appeals Chamber in the event of interlocutory appeals being submitted). Furthermore, they should ensure greater legal certainty and uniformity in the work of the Tribunal as a whole;
- (ii) Encourage as many States as possible to ratify the Draft Agreement on Legal Cooperation referred to above, and to this end to contact the Ambassadors of the relevant States in The Hague or in Brussels. Should the existence of cumbersome domestic legislative procedures make it difficult for States to ratify and implement the Draft Agreement, an attempt will be made to urge States to consider the Draft Agreement as a general legal framework from which to draw informally in order to entertain working relations with the Tribunal on an ad hoc basis;
- (iii) Hold a second plenary meeting of the Judges in late October 2009;
- (iv) Issue a collection of the Basic Documents of the Tribunal, so as to make available the most important documents relating to the Tribunal in the three official languages of the Tribunal; and
- (v) If the Prosecutor considers that an indictment is soon forthcoming, recruit essential additional staff. In addition, the President and some senior staff will pay a visit to Lebanon, to meet with senior State officials there and address cooperation and other matters.

4. Office of the Prosecutor

(A) General

26. In the first six months of operations, the OTP has overcome the operational challenges associated with relocating the base of an ongoing complex terrorist investigation from Beirut to The Hague. At the same time, the OTP has launched an operational surge aimed at increasing the pace of the investigation. This has been accompanied by a strengthening of the Prosecution Division; the involvement of Trial Counsel in the investigative phase of the OTP's work will enable them to help shape and organize an eventual prosecution.

(B) STL Relocation of the Investigation and Application for Deferral of the Case to the STL.

27. The OTP began its operations when the Prosecutor assumed his functions, on 1 March 2009, upon the official launch of the STL, and the day after the mandate of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC) came to an end.

28. The start-up phase involved many operational challenges associated with relocating the investigation to a new organization based in The Hague. These included the need to complete the recruitment of staff, which had started in Beirut. The OTP made it a priority to ensure that it gathered the most qualified and experienced staff. Other challenges faced and overcome included the transfer of all data and holdings from UNIIC in Beirut to the STL, maintaining chain of custody throughout; the establishment of an operating framework, standard operating procedures, and team structures; and, ensuring appropriate logistical support.

29. On March 25, 2009, the day after the Rules were made public, the Prosecutor filed his application pursuant to Article 4(2) of the Statute of the Tribunal and Rule 17, requesting the issuance of an Order to the Lebanese authorities for the deferral of their jurisdiction over the Hariri file to the Tribunal, the transfer to the Prosecutor of the results of the investigation with a copy of the court's record, and the presentation to the Pre-Trial Judge of a list of all individuals detained in connection with the Hariri file. On March 27, the Pre-Trial Judge issued the requested Order. On 8 April, the Lebanese authorities formally deferred the case of the investigation into the killing of Rafik Hariri and others to the Tribunal. They also provided a list of the detained individuals, which was transmitted to the Prosecutor for his reasoned submission on whether he would seek their continued detention or their release.

30. On April 27, 2009, the Prosecutor filed his reasoned submission on the issue of the detention of the four individuals physically in custody. The submission was based on materials already in the possession of the OTP from UNIIC, as well as a review of more than 22,000 pages of documentation transferred from the Lebanese authorities, the majority of which was handwritten and in Arabic. The review itself took over 1,200 hours to complete and required almost all the investigative resources of the OTP. On the basis of the Prosecutor's submission, the Pre-Trial Judge ordered the release of the four Generals on April 29.

(C) Taking the Lead in the Investigation

31. Since April 2009, the OTP has had primacy over the Lebanese authorities in the Hariri investigation. In leading the investigation, the OTP is operating under a new legal framework contained in the Tribunal's Statute and its Rules of Procedure and Evidence. At the same time, it continues to work on collecting evidence on potentially related attacks that were within the mandate of UNIIC. Among its investigative tools, the OTP has created and activated a secure webpage for public use, which has been designed as a secure and confidential means to contact the Investigation Division in the OTP.

(D) Surge in the Investigation

32. The OTP identified the need for a 12-month surge in order to increase the pace of the investigation. As soon as the surge was approved, an intensive recruitment drive was launched. Despite the summer holiday period, 80 percent of the new staff members were recruited by August 31. All should be on board by the end of September or October, depending on notice requirements. The Chief of Prosecutions took up his position on August 24, joining one Senior Trial Counsel who arrived at the end of April. A second Senior Trial Counsel and four mid-level and junior Trial Counsel are under recruitment.

33. On July 1, the Head of the OTP in the Beirut Field Office, an experienced investigator, took up his position in Beirut. With his arrival and that of other investigators, including some recruited as part of the surge, the Office is becoming a fully operational adjunct of the Investigation Division in The Hague.

34. In the first six months of operations, the OTP has conducted 46 missions and over 180 complex interviews, in Lebanon and other States, each requiring extensive preparation and follow-up.

(E) Cooperation with States and other International Organizations

35. Over 120 formal requests for assistance have been sent to Lebanon and other States. Although States have been generally supportive, a number of these requests remain unanswered. Systematic follow-up has been initiated, therefore, in Lebanon and with other States, through their respective Embassies in The Hague.

36. On June 5, 2009, the STL Prosecutor and the Lebanese Minister of Justice entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on the modalities of their cooperation. On June 12, 2009, the Lebanese authorities issued a decree formally appointing Judge Jocelyne Tabet as Deputy Prosecutor. Judge Tabet is an experienced member of the Lebanese judiciary and is expected to take up her position in The Hague in September.

37. The OTP has made a strong contribution to the drafting of an Interim Agreement with INTERPOL, entered into by the President on behalf of the Tribunal, which should facilitate the OTP's work. It has also provided critical input into a formal Agreement to be entered into with that Organization.

(F) Public Information and Outreach

38. In light of the high public interest in the STL, particularly in the investigation, and the specifics of the media environment in Lebanon and the region, the OTP identified public information and outreach as one of its priority areas of activity from the outset. It accordingly designed its own outreach strategy which aims at promoting the

integrity of the investigation and public confidence in the work of the OTP, emphasizing, in particular, the non-politicization of the OTP (and of the STL more generally).

39. The OTP, through the Prosecutor's Spokesperson, conducts regular media monitoring and analysis in relation to OTP activities and is in constant contact with the Lebanese press, responding to inquiries relating to the investigation.

5. (A) Defense Office

General

40. Pursuant to Article 13(2) of the STL Statute, the Defense Office is entrusted with important tasks, in particular: "to protect the rights of the Defense", and to "provide support and assistance to Defense counsel." In discharging his duties, the Head of the Office has already:

- (i) Prepared the legal infrastructure for the assignment of counsel;
- (ii) Set in motion the process for establishing a panel of lawyers who will be available to defendants;
- (iii) Established contacts with the Lebanese Bar Associations;
- (iv) Met with both the lawyers of the four detained Lebanese Generals and three of such detainees, with a view to better protecting their rights; and
- (v) Initiated the recruitment of the necessary staff.

(B) Normative Output

41. The Defense Office presented a Directive on the Assignment of Defense Counsel to the Judges, who adopted it during the March 2009 Plenary.

(C) Establishment of a Panel of Lawyers

42. An essential task will be to ensure that a defendant can choose a lawyer freely from a List of Counsel which should reflect different legal traditions and be composed of highly competent and experienced criminal advocates. To be admitted to the List, applicants need to be interviewed by an Admission Panel, which is a novelty in international tribunals. By August 2009, 110 persons had fulfilled all the application requirements. They will be interviewed by the Admission Panel later this year. Since the number of applicants from Lebanon is below par, efforts are underway to attract more Lebanese counsel to apply to the List.

(D) Contacts with the Lebanese Bar Associations and Defense Counsel

43. A close working relationship with the Lebanese bar associations and their members is important for the STL. The Defense Office has travelled to Beirut twice to foster this relationship. In April, the Head of Defense Office met with the President of the Beirut Bar and a large number of lawyers to explain the role and function of the Defense Office. In July, the Head of the Defense Office returned to Beirut to host a seminar for members of the Beirut Bar Association. The Defense Office Coordinator has also participated in a separate seminar in Beirut on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

(E) Protecting the Rights of Detainees

44. The overriding duty of the Defense Office is to protect the rights of the Defense, including any detainees held under the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. When Lebanon deferred jurisdiction over the Hariri case to the STL, the Head of Defense Office met with three of the four detainees and their counsel in Beirut and appointed a privately retained Defense Counsel for any representation before the STL. Moreover, having witnessed the conditions of detention,

the Defense Office requested that the President ensure that certain fundamental rights of the detainees be protected. As a result, the President issued an order on their conditions of detention.

Significantly, during the proceedings on the fate of the four detainees, the Head of Defense Office requested the Pre-Trial Judge to order their release forthwith. On the day of the order, the four detainees were released safely from their custody in Lebanon.

(F) Recruitment of Staff

45. During the past six months the Defense Office has been staffed with a Coordinator and an administrative assistant. The Head of the Defense Office has served on a part-time basis, dedicating several days a month to the STL, and will assume his duties full-time in November 2009. Recruitment has proceeded for two Legal Officers, one of whom will join the Office in September.

(G) Work in Progress

46. In order to provide adequate legal advisory services to Defense Counsel, the Defense Office, in conjunction with some consultants, is commencing a project to develop a number of legal tools. It will also adopt a Legal Aid policy and finalize a draft Code of Conduct for Counsel.

6. Conclusion

(A) What has been Accomplished in Six Months?

47. All those who work for the STL can take pride in a number of achievements attained over the past six months:

(i) The rapid approval of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, a set of legal provisions carefully tailored to the special features of the Tribunal, and which indeed constitute a fully-fledged “code of criminal procedure” exhibiting many novelties compared to other international “codes”;

(ii) The deferral of jurisdiction by Lebanon and the quick submission by the Prosecutor of a motion concerning the detention in Lebanon of four Lebanese generals, and the similarly rapid issuance by the Pre-Trial Judge of various orders on the matter;

(iii) The intense contacts of the Head of the Defense Office with the Lebanese bar associations and Lebanese lawyers at large; his insistence on meeting both the four Generals in goal and their lawyers, as well as his submission to the Tribunal’s President of a motion to better safeguard the rights of those detainees;

(iv) The stepping up by the Prosecutor of his investigations so as to expeditiously submit indictments to the Pre-Trial Judge;

(v) The Registry’s efficient preparations for the establishment of all the necessary practical infrastructures including the setting up of a courtroom (due to be finalized by February 2010 after which the necessary courtroom IT systems will be installed), as well as the recruitment of relatively few but highly competent and experienced staff, thereby affirming a commitment to both cost-effectiveness and efficiency; and

(vi) The unreserved cooperation lent by the Government of Lebanon to the various organs of the Tribunal.

(B) What Next?

48. In the next six months we are determined to:

- (i) Bring to completion all legal and practical infrastructures, so as to make the Tribunal ready for prompt and proper administration of justice;
- (ii) Intensify our outreach program, in order to have an increasingly great impact on the Lebanese legal profession and public opinion; and
- (iii) Encourage as many States as possible to ratify the comprehensive Draft Agreement on Legal Cooperation with the Tribunal, already circulated to Governments, or at least to consider this Draft Agreement as the general legal framework guiding relations of States with the Tribunal on a case by case basis.

49. We are keenly aware of the challenges and the major hurdles we are and will be facing. In particular, the Tribunal must meet two formidable challenges. One is that the Tribunal is the first international judicial institution to adjudicate responsibility for terrorism as a distinct crime. International terrorism is a protean notion, difficult to handle, also because there are only a few international treaties and limited case law from which to draw. However, through reliance on Lebanese law and any relevant international standards, the Tribunal should prove to be able to apply a sound and generally acceptable notion of terrorism in a well-balanced manner. The second major challenge is that the Tribunal is the first international criminal court operating within the Arab world. So far, many Arab countries have shown scant interest in, and in some instances have even cast a suspicious glance at, supranational criminal justice. To make them fully amenable to this judicial system one must show beyond any reasonable doubt that international justice can be impartial, fair and immune from any political or ideological bias.

50. We therefore intend to dispense justice free from any political or ideological fetter and based on full respect for the rights of both the victims and the defendants. By doing so we might set the stage for future and broader resort to international criminal institutions to fend off terrorism.

51. To be sure, ours will not be an easy task. We are aware that we are treading an uphill path, but we are determined to quickly do justice in a fair manner. We are also so ambitious as to hope to set a precedent for efficient and inexpensive international justice. We are actuated by what the German philosopher Hegel once called “the enthusiasm of the mind” (Enthusiasmus des Geistes). With the support and the cooperation of Lebanon and other States, we will be able to attain our goals.