

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
18 July 1997

The attention of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Secretariat has been drawn to a publication in the New Tablet Newspaper of 18th July, 1997 captioned, "485 Sojas" of the Republic of Sierra Leone Military forces and the People's Army have voluntarily given themselves up to the ECOMOG.

This baseless and unfounded information is deliberately meant to incite members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the People's Army.

This blatant act of propaganda are the handiwork of unpatriotic citizens parading as journalists who are bent on creating fear and panic in the minds of the people.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Secretariat, therefore wishes it to be known that no such surrender was done by any member of the Armed Forces or the People's Army who still in their entirety continue to demonstrate their loyalty to the government and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council in compliance with the oath taken to serve the government of the day, and to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our republic at all times.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council wishes to assure the general public that, the security of the state is paramount in their agenda to bring sustainable and permanent peace to Sierra Leone. It has also been discovered that the said newspaper is not registered and detailed information including telephone numbers were deliberately omitted which clearly demonstrates that the said newspaper is operating contrary to the rules and regulations for the registration of newspapers.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
3 November 1997

**TEJAN KABBAH SELLS NATION'S DIAMOND
(SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY CARATS)**

Reports reaching the A.F.R.C. Secretariat indicate that Ex-President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was seen in the Belgium capital of Brussels bargaining with one Mr. Serge Muller for the sale of a six hundred and twenty carat diamond which was in his possession a few days before the coup that ousted him. The said gem belongs to a very poor family hailing from the Kono District who had this gem stone stolen from them by one Lebanese man purporting that the diamond was not a real one.

Mr. Kabbah has now personalized the gem and this selfish act will strangulate the country's economy even more. The normal 2 and 1/2 percent from the proceeds due the country will not be forthcoming; neither will the true owners benefit from this illicit sale.

The above information should immediately dispel Kabbah's claim that he was in Brussels to solicit aid for the country on his return. Mr. Kabbah was in Brussels to sell our nation's diamond and the people of Sierra Leone do not take kindly to this act of theft.

NIGERIAN CHECK POINT AT JUI HARRASSING SIERRA-LEONEAN SOLDIERS

Reports reaching us reveal that Nigerian soldiers are harrasing civilians plying the route which is the main trunk road leading to the hinterland. A woman is quoted as saying "it seems they don't have food." All the woman's food was hijacked from her and also that of many others. The Nigerians deployed (at) Lungi and Jui buy food and condiments from the local markets in Freetown, and ever since the dastardly bombardments of Freetown and the closure of the road they have been left to starve. There is (a) confirmed report by civilians who were residing in the Jui area of the death of 7 (seven) Nigerian soldiers because of the lack of food.

WAR ON CRIME AND CRIMINALS

The AFRC chairman and Head of State Major Johnny Paul Koroma has yesterday revealed to a full house of the business community the full scale war being raged on crime by his government. He is quoted as saying, "Now that our detractors have seen the reality on the ground and given "reason" and opportunity, I will now prove to the world within this six months that I am not only a believer, but even more, A fearer of God." He is said to have vowed to protect the property and lives of the people of Sierra Leone at all cost and that though the execution of ten armed robbers for offenses ranging from murder, robbery, and looting was long overdue. He maintained that, as a believer in the rule of law, everybody should be given a fair trial before passing of any judgment. He is also quoted as saying this will not only act as

deterrent measure, but also a definite course of action for anybody regardless of status who will in any way be caught harassing civilians and infringing on their properties. Major Koroma ended by saying, "It may interest you all here present to know that of the ten only two were soldiers."

LIFTING OF THE CURFEW

The curfew which was imposed because of numerous reports filtering in of the merger between the Nigerian troops and the Kamajors and the possible infiltration into the capital to create panic by the later was yesterday lifted completely throughout the country. The car breaking applause by the 60-70 thousand crowd at then Siaka Stevens Stadium clearly sent the signal that Major Johnny Paul Koroma was in absolute control contrary to the belief of many. Major Koroma is said to have apologised to those affected by the curfew in one way or another. The For Di People newspaper had in its front page caption of the following day "JOHNNY PAUL NOT A HOOLIGAN AS PURPORTED BY JOHN, TOM, AND TEJAN." It is however worth noting that the newspaper For Di people does not speak good things of anybody, not even when Tejan Kabbah was in power.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
4 November 1997

The AFRC wishes the world to be informed about a disturbing new development in the ongoing National Crisis.

On Sunday 2nd November, a group of heavily armed men from the illegal Kamajor militia attacked a Government Road Transport Corporation (RTC) Bus as it plied the Bo-Kenema Highway.

Contrary to the report sent out to the world via certain elements based in Guinea, there was not a single soldier inside the RTC bus. Active Duty Soldiers do not travel by RTC Buses. They travel in military vehicles when plying the highways.

The Kamajor fighters stopped the bus by creating an ambush which blocked the highway. The driver willingly stopped the vehicle. The illegal Kamajor fighters then proceeded to greet the passengers in Mende.

Those who could not speak Mende were immediately shot and killed. Of the others who could speak Mende, the women were first allowed off the bus and told to flee into the bushes. The remaining men were then informed that only "weak men" do not enroll as Kamajor fighters. They were told to flee into the bushes and as they were fleeing into the bushes, the heavily armed Kamajors fired upon them seriously wounding 27 of them. These victims are all admitted in Government Hospitals.

The Kamajors then proceeded to fire three Rocket Propelled Grenades into the bus's engine before leaving the horror scene.

Soldiers who rushed to the scene later found a message written with the blood of their victims on the tarred road. The message read: NO SLPP, NO SIERRA-LEONE.

These acts are extremely disturbing at a time when the entire Nation is supposed to be observing a ceasefire and getting ready for disarmament.

This is not surprising to the AFRC however. In July when the first ceasefire was called by ECOWAS, Capt. (Rtd.) Hinga Norman, the head of the tribal militia went on the clandestine FM 98.1 Radio to instruct all Kamajors to ignore the call for a ceasefire.

Ex-President Kabbah's statements that he would not grant amnesty to RUF combatants and would seek revenge on the AFRC for our timely intervention in the affairs of the State are also worth noting.

Tejan Kabbah's vengeful statements uttered both on their clandestine radio and in Europe are proof of the calibre of character of the man who vowed to hold our Nation intact on March 29th 1996.

The nefarious activities of the illegal Kamajor militia during the past one year since the signing of the Abidjan Peace Accord are to be fully noted. These include acts of cannibalism, cold-blooded slaying of innocent civilian passengers using brutal methods. One such victim had her head sliced off slowly till she died. Her crime was that she was married to a retired soldier. Another victim, Paramount Chief Dassama of Dama Chiefdom, Kenema had his throat slit opened in cold blood. He was accused of disarming the Kamajor members in his chiefdom and preaching peace and reconciliation.

These activities of the illegal tribal Kamajor militia are all being fully supported by Ex-President Tejan Kabbah of the SLPP.

The AFRC however wish to make it crystal clear once more that they are fully committed to the Conakry Peace Accord of October 22nd and 23rd and will hand power back to Ex-President Tejan Kabbah on May 22nd 1998.

He will then be sworn in again as the Head-of-State. The present Head-of-State, His Excellency, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, will hand over the staff of office to Tejan Kabbah (as signed) on May 22nd 1998. Members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council are fully committed to the Conakry Peace Plan.

Signed,

A.F.R.C. Secretariat
State House
Freetown

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
5 November 1997

ALHAJI AHMAD KABBAH TORPEDOES PEACE PLAN ON 28th OCTOBER 1997

It has come to the notice of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council that Alhaji Ahmad Kabbah made the following statements in Europe about a week ago after the Commonwealth Summit.

We quote:

"I am expressing reservations about several provisions of the peace accord agreed to in Conakry between the AFRC and the ECOWAS Committee of Five on Sierra Leone."

"This agreement cannot secure an amnesty for the coup leaders. These people went and destroyed my home and are hunting members of my family, and now I hear of an agreement that says I should grant amnesty to all those people?"

"I totally reject a key provision that my government will be restored only after six months, on 22 April 1998. The question of timing is NOT accepted as demanded."

This was followed by the following comments from Mrs Shirley Gbujama. We quote:

"The meeting took place in our absence."

"I note that although the accord bears the names of two members of the AFRC, two representatives of ECOWAS, and two witnesses, there were no signatures. I can't say at this time that the agreement has been signed."

"This document is not one that should be entirely welcomed by the international community."

"ECOWAS is yet to report to the president about the issue. There are parts of it we have questions about."

The AFRC wishes to make the following observations about the above statements uttered by Kabbah and his longtime concubine during their tour of Europe.

1. On September 16th 1997, H.E. Major Koroma offered to hold tripartite talks with Alhaji Kabbah and Foday Sankoh. This was out of a genuine desire to end the suffering of the Sierra Leone people who were being bombarded with high explosives whilst the International Community kept silent. The following is part of his Letter to the United Nations Security Council:

"...We as a Ruling Council are nonetheless willing, as has been emphasised on multiple occasions, to enter into talks with anyone for the sake of our people. We are ready to talk at the level of ECOWAS. We are ready to talk at the level of the United Nations and I wish to assert that I am personally ready to enter into tripartite negotiations with Mr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and Corporal Foday Saybana Sankoh. Enough of our people have died."

However, Alhaji Kabbah and his corps of supporters completely disregarded this genuine desire of our Head of State to end the conflict. Instead, in his speech to the UN on October 1st, Alhaji Tejan Kabbah underlined just a single section of his rambling 12 page rendition. This section of his rendition follows:

"...Mr. President, If, in spite of the record of the illegal junta's bad faith the international community insists we must take the path of negotiations, then I suggest that such negotiations should be held between the junta and the Committee of ECOWAS Foreign Ministers whose membership has now been increased to five. And for those negotiations to be meaningful they must proceed on the basis of clear understandings. In the first place, if the negotiations are resumed the three point ECOWAS negotiating agenda must remain the agenda of such negotiations. Then they must be time-bound."

Now, that the ECOWAS Community have been able to secure a time-bound peace plan which would culminate in his return to power, Mr Kabbah and his concubine are faulting the plan which proceeded on the basis of clear understanding.

Now, why is Mrs Gbujama petulantly stating that the meeting took place in their absence?

Who stopped them from attending these talks? Who was it who rejected a genuine call for tripartite talks?

2. The document was duly signed and witnessed by several members of the Sierra Leone and ECOWAS Community including several SLPP representatives. Is Mrs Gbujama seeking to question the intelligence of the delegates by stating that they would issue an unsigned agreement?

3. We urge Mr Kabbah, Mrs Gbujama and the rest of their supporters to diligently work with us in the implementation of this Peace Accord.

In conclusion, the AFRC believes that the Nation's integrity supersedes longtime affiliations or the loss of personal assets.

Signed,

A.F.R.C. Secretariat.
State House,
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Dated: Wednesday, November 5th, 1997

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
6 November 1997

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) has been informed of plans by Alhaji Tejan Kabbah to return to Sierra Leone and wait out his six months at Lungi under the protection of the Nigerian ECOMOG contingent stationed there.

This news is very worrying to the A.F.R.C. The A.F.R.C. is fully committed to the Conakry Peace Plan and intends to hand over power back to Alhaji Kabbah on May 22nd 1998. However, if he insists on staying at Lungi, then this aforementioned event might not happen as we cannot assure him of his safety in the hands of the Nigerian troops stationed at Lungi.

The A.F.R.C. is deeply concerned about the safety of Alhaji Kabbah under the security of the Nigerian troops. It is worthwhile to note that the majority of the Nigerian troops, both the men and the junior officers stationed in Sierra Leone, are in Sierra Leone very UNWILLINGLY.

They do not want to fight or be killed for a cause which they do not believe in. They are only in Sierra Leone because they are obeying orders. Their moral (sic.) is at an all-time low, they are buried disgracefully when killed in combat and they long to see their wives and children.

Furthermore, over 500 (five hundred) Nigerian personnel have died (or are presently missing in action in the past few months) on Sierra Leonean soil. The other ranks have been the ones mostly killed. They do not take kindly to the fact that Alhaji Kabbah has not sent any message of condolences yet to them.

They are angered that despite all their efforts in containing the situation so that he can return to power in May 1998, he could find fault with the Conakry Agreement without saying thanks to the gallant men in the Nigerian Army.

These men have not realised that the only obstacle to them returning home safely to their wives and families is Alhaji Kabbah. How safe would Alhaji Kabbah be if he goes to Lungi and puts himself under their protection?

The AFRC Secretariat would once more like to re-iterate the call by His Excellency Major Johnny Koroma for Alhaji Kabbah to return home immediately and take part in the peace process.

However, it would be wiser for Alhaji Kabbah to return to Freetown where he is assured of the maximum security possible for himself and his contingent than at Lungi under the security of the irate Nigerian other ranks and junior officers.

Any small skirmish occurring at Lungi could result in Alhaji Kabbah losing his life. And it would not be from Sierra Leonean soldiers. The experience of Samuel K. Doe in Liberia is to be recalled.

Signed,
Colonel A. K. Sesay
Secretary General
A.F.R.C.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
7 November 1997

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council would like to reassure the ECOWAS Committee of Five and the International Community about our commitment to the Conakry Peace Plan.

The AFRC can only construe Gen. Victor Malu's statements over the world press this morning to be a result of a misunderstanding due to a break down in communication between the general and his men based in Sierra Leone.

The first two preliminary meetings between the gallant men of the Sierra Leone and Nigerian armies were held in a buffer zone between the two troops at Orugu Bridge. The two meetings went on successfully and we were pleased that some amount of confidence building came out of that meeting.

However, it now seems that Gen. Malu was of the impression that the third meeting between himself and H.E. Major Johnny Paul Koroma, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone would be held at Lungi.

Whilst the AFRC has absolutely no reservation in meeting Gen. Malu for the proposed discussions, it should be recalled that there are no soldiers of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces presently stationed at Lungi. The number of Nigerian troops stationed at Lungi run into several thousands.

The world would recall that, without any provocation, Gen. Malu ordered the bombing of Cockerill Military Headquarters in a bid to assassinate H.E. Major Koroma and other senior members of the AFRC who were supposed to be holding a council briefing inside the building at the time of the bombing.

It was due to the mighty arm of our Glorious God that his council briefing was rescheduled at the last meeting hence effectively aborting the plan by Alhaji Kabbah and Gen. Malu to assassinate H.E. Major Koroma.

With this in mind, and the fact that this period is supposed to be that of confidence building between the Sierra Leonean and Nigerian armies, it must be understandable to all concerned that the AFRC has reservations about holding the meeting at Lungi.

We have however made it crystal clear to the Nigerian contingent in Sierra Leone that we will meet with Gen. Malu in the same neutral buffer zone at Orugu Bridge where the first two preliminary meetings were held.

With the whole world watching us, Gen. Malu's safety is assured by the AFRC. After all the meeting would be held in the same buffer zone with equal numbers of Nigerians and Sierra Leonean soldiers present.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
7 November 1997

AFRC PRESS RELEASE

From Public Relations Officer,
Republic of S/Leone Armed Forces
7 November 1997

**COMMENTS ON VICTOR MALU'S STATEMENT ON BBC,
7TH NOVEMBER, 1997**

1. First meeting was held on Sunday, Nov. 2, 1997 at Orugu Bridge, a venue considered neutral for both parties. In attendance was the commandant of the contingent in Jui and his staff officers. On the AFRC part, Chief of Army Staff led the delegation.
2. Second meeting was held on Wed. Nov. 5, 1997. In attendance was the ECOMOG task force commandant Col. M. Khobe, Commandant Jui, and his staff officers. On the AFRC, Chief of Army Staff led the delegation.
3. Aim of meeting was to deliberate on the proposed agenda for discussion. Observations were made on the agenda brought in by Col. Khobe. Five additions were made summing up the agenda of 17 items.
4. Additionally, several observations were made by the participants subject will be communicated to Col. Khobe for onward transmission to Victor Malu.
5. Our decisions were as follows:
 - A. Lungi as a venue was not suitable or neutral because of security reasons.
 - B. Orugu Bridge was designated as venue for the meeting between Head of State and Commander-in-Chief Major Johnny Paul Koroma and Gen. Victor Malu.
 - C. Date was to be shifted to Wed., November 12, 1997.
6. Victor Malu has lied to the world that meetings 1 and 2 were held at Cockerill, he has decided to lie or maybe he was not properly briefed.
7. The need for postponement was borne out of the desire to study, thoroughly, the items on the agenda, 17 items altogether. Thus we considered the time frame too short.
8. The chairman's speech in reaction to the Conakry Peace Plan has been misconstrued by Malu. Nigeria is not neutral in our crisis, a neutral force could effectively do the job.

9. Nigeria has been training, arming and providing fire support for the illegal and tribal Kamajors, therefore, their neutrality is questionable.

10. Communique states ECOWAS troops not Nigerian troops.

11. Gen. Malu's threat of the use of air strikes exposes his partiality. ECOWAS and the United Nation have not mandated Gen. Malu to use air strikes in enforcing sanctions and embargo in Sierra Leone. Reference the statement of the British Ambassador the United Nations, Sir John Weston.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
8 November 1997

Editorial, A. K. Sesay, Secretary-General, AFRC
8 November 1997

REACTION TO THE WASHINGTON POST TO EDITORIAL OF NOV. 4TH

It is a sad commentary on America's serious media for The Washington Post to publish an ill conceived public relations disguise on Sierra Leone in the form of an editorial { "And African Democracy," Nov. 4].

Since the May 25th coup in our country, population 4.5 million, the Post has constantly published superficial reports about the overthrow of Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and his government. Most of the reports have been disingenuous and lack insight. Investigations that would look into reasons of the purported deposition of democracy have not been conducted. Instead, the Post has consistently tried to resuscitate a stillborn democracy.

That Alhaji Kabbah was overthrown and not a single shot was fired by any of his hand picked military officers to defend him speaks volumes of his actions or the lack of it while he was president. Even the Nigerian soldiers whom the Post erroneously trusts as Africa's pro-democracy mantle bearers, notwithstanding they hijacked democracy from the Nigerian voters, were humiliated out of Freetown when 300 men and 13 officers were captured. The Post did not report this development even though the Associated Press, Reuters, the Washington Times and the BBC reported it.

It is beyond comprehension that the Post would write a praise-song editorial for the Nigerian military dictatorship without mentioning that is to the advantage of General Abacha that Alhaji Kabbah returns because of a diamond mining concession agreement the two men had signed; without explaining that there is a boys club relationship between UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Alhaji Kabbah and Sierra Leone's UN representative Dr. James Jonah. This is the reason why Mr. Annan has compromised his objectivity in the political impasse in Sierra Leone. The same reason why Mr. Annan has turned a blind eye to the brutal bombing and killing of innocent civilians by Nigerian-owned Alpha jets.

Where were the Post and the International Community when a group of frustrated Sierra Leonean mothers wrote to them about the atrocities committed against them and their children through the bombing of their homes at night while asleep. Even when the British Envoy to the U.N., Sir John Weston, condemned the illegal Nigerian bombing of Freetown since neither the U.N., OAU nor ECOWAS gave Gen. Abacha such a mandate, the Post did not report it. This is disgraceful, to say the least. It is time for the American media to stop the double speak and descend on the military junta in Nigeria.

The Post should be writing editorials demanding the release of Chief Abiola. The Post should now lead the crusade against the Nigerian military to free democracy from its 30 years grip. It is about time the U.N. under Mr. Annan demanded democracy for Nigeria instead of just being hypocritical toward Sierra Leone's democracy.

Sierra Leoneans are fully aware that the pro-democracy cries from the U.N. and State Department are not genuine. Pascal Lissouba is not Tejan Kabbah that is why the U.N. and State Department could not care less. The political crisis in Brazzaville is not different from the one in Freetown, but while the world is bent on breaking Sierra Leoneans, they have not expressed the same commitment in Congo. That is sinister. The Post has not written an editorial praising the Angolans in Congo, either. the crap within diplomatic cycles that the two situations are different or complicated, is bogus, they are not.

When a clique of corrupt international officials bank to bilk a country by setting up bogus trading companies in the United States, that is not democracy, it is deterioration. When Sierra Leone's ambassador to the United States charges his nationals \$300 for immigration forms that are supposed to be distributed free, that is not democracy, it is fleecing the desperate.

Democracy was not stifled by the May 25th coup. There was none to begin with. What happened in Sierra Leone was a simple case of the military taking power from people who did not deserve to be in power. the rush to use Sierra Leone as a guinea pig of democracy by the international community, including the US, Britain and Germany, made it easy for them to lose sight of the fact that Sierra Leone's patched up democracy could blow up in their faces as it has now done. and now, there is an obligation to save face. The International Community must accept that their 1996 attempt at democracy in Sierra Leone failed. They should blame themselves for failing to ensure total peace before the elections. Otherwise, this quagmire will end in a tribal bloodbath.

Since the demise of the Soviet Union, any semblance of democracy is positive in the eyes of the media. However, over the past months, Sierra Leoneans have come to understand that the so-called democratization euphoria sweeping the African continent must be approach with caution lest they will be exposed to the same ills that followed independence when African gained political freedom but not economic freedom. Therefore, democracy and peace must work hand in glove. Democracy cannot be instituted in a hurry especially if most of the people are in perpetual fear of their lives because rebels might emerge from the bush, kill an entire village, and burn it aground.

If the self-proclaimed proponents of democratization were sincere and did not grab the word as an excuse to gain access to the country's over-valued resources, the first logical step would have been to end the civil war, peacefully. Then bring all the stake-holders to Freetown for participation in the electoral process. Instead, enough doubt was created regarding the previous military government's willingness to relinquish power. But those who framed this debate have yet to support their claims. Even Alhaji Kabbah and Dr. Jonah who were the two foremost advisers to the last military junta have not presented such facts.

In this political climate, the guys with the UN and International Connections have seemingly won the propaganda game. They have successfully used the Post as their platform, thanks to the public relations firm, Powell and Tate. Mr. Jonah's well crafted lies about chemical weapons acquired by the AFRC to use on civilians in Sierra Leone found its way to the floor of the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council. Because the allegations came from a former senior U.N. official his disgraceful lies became gospel truth. This was when the Post should have asked for proof from the ambassador but did not.

The realities of life in Sierra Leone the Post has not investigated are that, the lives of children as young as two years old have been snuffed out, thanks to Nigeria's Alpha jet bombardment. Civilians are starving to death, hospitals and clinics are without electricity, our oil refinery was bombed, destroyed and two engineers killed without provocation, while Nigerian war planes and warships claim they are enforcing a travel ban against the junta and an embargo on military hardware. The spinmaster of Mr. Kabbah and his "pro-democracy" crowd have ensured that none of these hardships on the innocent civilians who really matter, get published in the American media.

The presence of Gen. Abacha's military men in Sierra Leone must be seen for what it is. Sinister. As it stands, the Nigerian military junta is under its own international sanctions. Key among them is the inability to siphon their loot from the country to foreign banks. To circumvent the sanctions, Gen. Abacha is befriending countries like Sierra Leone under Alhaji Kabbah's leadership, Gambia, Niger and others through which his funds can be diverted without trace. Secondly, the state department has confirmed that the Nigerian military is deep in drug trade. Therefore, by having friends in the sub-region willing to be used as conduit for such illegal activities, Gen. Abacha will never become a Noriega and the drug money will never stop flowing into the coffers of Abuja.

All of these information have not made the pages of the Post and might not because the paper does not seem interested in investigating while the spinmasters are hard at work. Alhaji Kabbah's son was disgracefully arrested at the Kennedy Airport in New York for International Heroin Drug trafficking from Africa to the USA. This story of a president's son swallowing bags of heroin was not news enough to be published in the Post. But the paper is always quick at reporting the drug activities of poor black youths in southeast Washington whose folks cannot afford to pay spinmasters.

The people of Sierra Leone cannot afford spinmasters to publicize their suffering, but the people of Sierra Leone believe that one day the world will know the truth.

Signed

Colonel A. K. Sesay
Secretary General,
Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
State House

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
9 November 1997

REFUTING THE FM 98.1 NEWS UPDATES

(a) The AFRC would like to correct the FM 98.1 claims that their station was jammed by the AFRC government of H.E. Major Koroma. Indications are that their radio station was jammed by a group of engineering students from a local vocational institute in Freetown.

This was done out of the outrage these students and a large number of Sierra Leoneans feel at the insensitive and inciteful statements being regularly broadcasted from this station. The straw that broke the camel's back was the personal verbal abuse sent in the direction of notable academic personalities who attended the Conakry peace talks as observers. The verbal abuse directed at notables like Dr. Max Bailor, Retired Principal of the Albert Academy in Freetown, Dr. Harry Turay, Principal of Njala University College and Professor Eldred Jones of Fourah Bay College sparked an intense desire in these engineering students to jam FM 98.1.

The AFRC fervently believes in constructive freedom of speech. This is why several demands from the public to jam the clandestine FM 98.1 radio station had been turned down in the past. We do believe that the majority of Sierra Leoneans have now seen through the load of rubbish regularly sent out by people who lack the integrity to even announce their real names.

(b) The AFRC would like to further correct another dangerous propaganda that was broadcasted from FM 98.1. Mr Steven Bio is not in Freetown with any Ukrainians. No Ukrainian would challenge a U.N. Security Council decision which bans the sale of arms to the government of Sierra Leone. The AFRC is fully committed to the Conakry Peace Plan and is not building up any troops for any attack on ECOMOG bases. We however do not consider the Nigerian soldiers to be neutral in our nation's crisis.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
10 November 1997

NEWS UPDATES FROM SIERRA LEONE

1. SIERRA LEONEANS CELEBRATE ONE WEEK OF RENEWED POSTAL SERVICES

The Sierra Leone Postal Services, (SALPOST) re-opened with full swing on Tuesday 2nd November 1997. The International Postal Union had been misinformed about the real situation on the ground in Sierra Leone which had led to the suspension of mail services for Sierra Leone. The truth has now been made known to them.

The main Post Office at Siaka Stevens Street had been partly destroyed by fire and heavy artillery fire earlier in the year. This destruction occurred when ex-President Kabbah instructed the Special Security Division (SSD) of the Sierra Leone Police to shoot and kill students who were demonstrating against the government's tampering with their green card application forms. Two students and a government worker were shot and immediately killed on that day. Several other students were manhandled and arrested. Several more were hospitalised with serious injuries. For over two months till the corrupt SLPP government was chased out of office, no commission had been set up to look into these brutal deaths and flagrant abuse of human rights ordered by Ex-President Alhaji Kabbah.

Under the leadership of His Excellency, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, the damage incurred by the Post Office Building due to Alhaji Kabbah's instructions has been repaired. Several other buildings, notably the Ministry of Finance and the top three floors of the Bank of Sierra Leone have been or are in the process of being repaired. These buildings were destroyed by the heavy artillery fired from State House by the Nigerian soldiers on May 25th 1997. The Nigerians had believed that they would be killed by soldiers of the Republic of Sierra Leone's military force. They were therefore firing heavy weapons from State House onto the city. These missiles landed at the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Sierra Leone, setting them up in flames. When the Nigerian contingent stationed here realised that they were under no danger from us, they immediately ceased fire, abandoned the State House and went back to Jui. But the damage had already been done.

The re-opening of the Postal Services sparked the greatest show of joy in the provinces. Residents of Kabala, Kambia, Makeni, Bo, Kailahun, Kenema and other towns organised joyful demonstrations when the first bags of mail arrived in their towns over the weekend. Letters from relatives in the U.S.A. and Europe were joyfully opened. The Chairman of the National Coalition for Peace, Southern Province, Mr James Turay remarked that whenever Alhaji Kabbah tried to make the people of Sierra Leone suffer, the mighty arm of our glorious God

would always intervene. Mails are transported to and from Sierra Leone via the Republic of Guinea.

2. EX-AMBASSADOR JOHN LEIGH TRIBALISES THE NATION'S CONFLICT.

Because of the rampant bombing of our towns and cities by the Nigerian Military Jets and Warships since June 2nd 1997 coupled with the nefarious activities of the illegal tribal Kamajors, Sierra Leonean citizens fled their beloved country in the thousands. The Government of Bill Clinton decided to award Temporary Protective Status [TPS] to all refugees fleeing the unprovoked aggression by Nigeria in Sierra Leone. Over the past weekend, Mr. John Leigh, demonstrated his TRIBAL AND CORRUPT nature much to the dismay of Sierra Leoneans residing in the United States. The ex-ambassador demanded the sum of \$300 from Sierra Leoneans to give them immigration forms that were supposed to be distributed free of charge. The ex-ambassador also wants the U.S. Immigration services to pass all Sierra Leonean passports through him for "authentication" before the U.S. Immigration endorses TPS for any Sierra Leonean citizen. Sierra Leoneans are now worried that those who do not support the corrupt SLPP might have their passports invalidated by the ex-ambassador. The ex-ambassador's tribal comments repeatedly uttered in the United States, have been meant to create bad blood between the Limbas and other tribes. This has also caused great concern amongst Sierra Leoneans in the U.S.A. In San Jose, California, Mr John Leigh referred to Limbas with derogatory comments. One of his comments was that all Limbas from Binkolo were uncivilised.

3. POLICE OFFICER SOLOMON MUSA SELLS NATIONS PASSPORTS TO HONG KONG

The A.F.R.C. would like to inform the world that the former Immigration Boss under Tejan Kabbah, Chief Police Officer Solomon Musa, recently went to Hong Kong and sold thousands of the Nation's passports to Hong Kong citizens. The proceeds from the illegal sale of these passports are now being used to provide entertainment for the SLPP Ministers at a nightclub in Conakry dubbed "The Heart of Gold." Mr Musa pays for all the drinks as well as the women of pleasure picked up by these former ministers and heads of parastatals. Displaced Sierra Leoneans who fled at the threat of Nigeria bombing the cities are now stranded in unsanitary refugee camps miles away from Conakry. They never see the SLPP ministers who spend most of their time fighting over women at the Guinean nightclubs.

4. SLPP FRIGHTENS DISPLACED IN GUINEA

In an attempt to portray a Government and People in exile, Alhaji Kabbah's propaganda team in Guinea now seek to frighten Sierra Leonean refugees from returning home to Sierra Leone in December. Sierra Leoneans are being told that they would be killed if they ever return. The A.F.R.C. would like to reassure every Sierra Leonean citizen that they are welcomed back to help in the rebuilding and peace process. The Public Relations Office repeats the call by His Excellency Major Koroma for all refugees including Alhaji Kabbah to return home. They are assured of their maximum security. No one would be hurt or harassed. This is a time for Reconciliation.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
12 November 1997

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council would like to repeat its charge that Ex-President Kabbah was in Brussels to sell our nation's 620 carats diamond. This diamond was in his possession when he fled the country on May 25th 1997.

What sort of democracy did we have where disputes over ownership of a diamond results in the diamond being commandeered by the Head of State for his personal use?

The A.F.R.C. wishes to reproduce in its entirety (as an attachment below) the "rebuttal" by Ex-Foreign Minister, Mrs Shirley Gbujama. Whilst it is understandable that Mrs Shirley Gbujama is confused at this present time, the A.F.R.C. would like to advise her to carefully study all "authentic" documents she releases to the public. How can a document dated October 30th at the top be signed at the bottom with the date 4th November? The first A.F.R.C. press release on this issue was dated 3rd November 1997. As a final note, the A.F.R.C. would like to repeat that Alhaji Kabbah sold our nation's diamond in the company of Mr. Serge Muller, the corrupt businessman and Chief Executive Officer of Rex Diamond Mining, Vancouver, Canada. Alhaji Kabbah has since illegally pocketed the proceeds from this sale. The People of Sierra Leone do not take kindly to this act of theft.

Signed.

Secretariat.
A.F.R.C.
State House.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
13 November 1997

1. SIERRA LEONEANS LEARN TO LOVE THEMSELVES.

Government workers now walk miles and miles to go to work every day. Sierra Leoneans are learning to love themselves with each passing day the sanctions are upheld. Chief Abu Black, at a recent massive rally at the National Stadium, urged all citizens not to allow the sanctions imposed at the urging of Alhaji Kabbah to depress them. Chief Abu Black shouted into the microphone that all citizens should prepare themselves for hard times and should "walk to work proudly like Chief Abu Black". With the recent massive shortage of petrol in the country, Sierra Leoneans now have to walk to work. This they do cheerfully whilst calling out to each other encouraging slogans like "We go walk like Abu Black!!" Sierra Leoneans believe that we shall overcome together. Peace & Tranquility shall reign once more.

2. SCHOOLS WOULD RE-OPEN FULLY WHEN PETROL FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ARRIVES.

According to an Agence France Press (AFP) report dated today November 13th, Alhaji Kabbah and his top aides made several remarks to an AFP journalist which indicate that they are quite pleased at the suffering of innocent citizens caused by the Security Council Sanctions. Several such remarks from Mr Kabbah follows:

1. "The population is suffering from lack of electricity, that is part of the game to expel the military."

To Alhaji Kabbah, this is all a game. Nigeria bombing our infrastructures is all a game, Alpha jets killing scores of our children aged as young as six months, is all a game. Bastardising our constitution by commanding Nigerians to kill us, is all a game. Imposing non-authorised blockading of our sea and air ports, resulting in deaths from starvation and disease is all a game to him.

2. "Immediately I go home, sanctions will be lifted," said Kabbah, who hardly seemed shaken.

In addition, according to the AFP report, after the interview, a presidential aide asked the journalist who had travelled from Freetown about conditions in the capital. When told about the suffering of the innocent civilians and that there was no electricity for the past month, this aide remarked:

3. "Let them suffer. That will teach them to challenge us."

Sadly, these egoistic remarks repeatedly made by the ousted president and his top aides adequately prove that those people believe that Sierra Leone is their personal property. There exists a complete lack of sensitivity on their part for the suffering of innocent citizens. As it now stands, those of our children who survived the merciless aerial bomb raids, cannot go to school because there is no petrol to transport them to school in the newly created Government School Buses. Only a few schools like those located in the Army Barracks are functioning normally. This is because the children of soldiers are within walking distance of their schools in the residential areas of the barracks. Although all schoolteachers have had their salaries fully paid to date, unfortunately, most other schools cannot function because the children cannot get to these schools. It is hoped that petrol for humanitarian needs would soon arrive so that the electrical powerhouses and our children's schools can function fully once more.

3. ELIZABETH BLOUNT VISITS SIERRA LEONE. The renowned journalist Elizabeth Blount of the BBC was in Freetown during the past two days of ECOMOG talks. She was here as a guest of the A.F.R.C. She stayed, as did General Victor Malu, in the section of the Cape Sierra Hotel not destroyed by the Nigerian missiles. She walked all around the city, visiting Government offices which were full of hardworking Sierra Leonean citizens. She also visited the State House. She was given a free reign to inspect any part of the city that she wished to visit. It was a pleasure to have her with us in Freetown and we ask her to return back soon. The A.F.R.C. calls on other independent journalists worldwide to visit Sierra Leone and see a Nation united in our efforts for Peace and Tranquility.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
14 November 1997

The Government of Sierra Leone, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, AFRC, has learned with grave concern and the deepest sense of shock, the unprovoked and brutal attack on innocent civilians on 7th November, 1997 by the illegal Kamajor bandits at Sembehun and Shenge in the Moyamba District.

According to fleeing eye witnesses, a band of Kamajors entered the town of Sembehun on a Pampam boat from Gbangbatoke armed to the teeth with RPGs, AK-47s and other heavy weapons.

The militiamen identified themselves as being on a mission for former Defense Minister Hinga Norman. According to the witnesses who included a medical officer, Dr. Lawrence, the leaders of these group of more than twenty (20) bandits were a Steve Sowa, Mustapha Sankoh and one Gbanako.

The Kamajor bandits aggressively deployed on all key entry points to the town. Local farmers were ambushed and attacked for food and money. Eye witnesses say, the leaders of the attack on Sembehun took local chiefs, elders and wealthy residents to U.M.C. school where they demanded that the captives contribute money and food to the Kamajors.

The Kamajor leaders told the captives that Alhaji Tejan Kabba has refused to give money to Hinga Norman. They further claimed that it was Alhaji Kabba who wrote and requested from President Charles Taylor, that Hinga Norman be arrested in Liberia.

Other eye witnesses reported that residents of Shenge were from marched and their properties were looted. A car, with license plate WU 39997, belonging to a former member of parliament, Mr. Francis Cober, was seized by the bandits.

Before the militiamen released some of their captives, they made it known to them that they were no longer fighting for the return of Alhaji Kabba because he has cheated them out of millions of dollars.

The militia leaders said that while Alhaji Kabba was in Nigeria several months ago, General Sani Abacha gave him 2 million dollars to support the Kamajors. Instead, he gave the money to one of his wives, Mrs. Patricia Kabba, to buy a house in Maryland in the United States.

The militia leaders accused Alhaji Kabba of being ungrateful. They said that he was no longer their leader. The only person they will take instructions from is Hinga Norman.

AFRC wishes to inform Sierra Leoneans and the international community that while we are still committed to the Conakry Peace Agreement, we shall not tolerate these naked acts of banditry on the innocent civilians of our country. Our efforts have always been geared towards bringing lasting peace to Sierra Leone. Nothing will shake that resolve.

Signed
Mr Allieu B. Kamara
Public Relations Officer One
AFRC,
Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
8 December 1997

Sierra Leone has always been a multi-religious state where different religious dominations have peacefully co-existed since Independence.

The AFRC had repeatedly received intimations from former SLPP members that ex- President Alhaji Tejan Kabbah had signed several illegal documents in Tehran last year after he defied the United States and went to Iran. One such document is said to have signed off the Republic Of Sierra Leone to the Arab Moslem Community as an Islamic State.

The AFRC had no proof of this however, and so the government refrained from making a public pronouncement on the matter. We produced substantial proof however of his shady dealings with Iran in several documents released to the public. Attached to this document is the "bilateral" document his government signed with Iran where he practically signed off all our mineral resources [diamonds, gold, iron-ore, bauxite, rutile] to that country.

It must be clearly stated that the AFRC has no reservations about the Islamic Republic of Iran entering into constructive business with Sierra Leone. What we cannot condone is the signing of a document during a "democratic" dispensation which was not first approved by the honourable members of Parliament.

Today, much to the utter dismay of the AFRC, we have now learnt through a front-page story in the Pro-SLPP newspaper "THE POINT" and through a Reuters News report from Tehran that not only has Alhaji Kabbah gone to Iran to attend the eighth Islamic Summit of Heads of States, but to our utter dismay, Sierra Leone is listed as a MOSLEM State.

The AFRC wishes to state unequivocally that Sierra Leone is not and has NEVER been a Moslem State. Sierra Leone has never had tribal tensions risen as high as they rose during the Kabbah-SLPP era. This was due to his complete ineffectiveness in handling the Nation's various spectres.

Today, Sierra-Leone, a Nation whose different religions have co-existed for years without strife might soon have religious tensions added to an already volatile & deteriorating tribal relationships.

The AFRC, under the leadership of His Excellency, Major John Paul Koroma wishes to assure all Christians, Moslems, and other religious groups that we shall NEVER succumb and allow our Nation to be labelled a Moslem State. We are an Inter-religious state. We have always been and we will always remain as such.

The Reuters Report is attached to this press release. Ivory-Coast amongst others is listed as an Observer to the meeting whilst Sierra Leone is listed as a member.

Signed

Allieu Badara Kamara
Public Relations Officer
AFRC - State House

Attached:- Reuters News report (8th Dec. at 6:30 a.m. GMT)

TEHRAN, Dec 8 (Reuters) - The Islamic summit which opens in Tehran on Tuesday is the eighth in a series begun in the Moroccan capital Rabat in 1969.

Some 25 Heads of Islamic States took part and vowed to liberate from Israel the holy city of Jerusalem, site of Islam's third most sacred shrine, the al-Aqsa Mosque.

The meeting also established that there are presently 1.2 billion Moslems worldwide, the majority of which are in Africa.

The present constituents of the worldwide Islamic States are:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Pakistan, Palestinian territories, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Surinam, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Bosnia, the Central African Republic, Guyana and Ivory Coast have observer status, along with Turkish Cypriots and the Moro National Liberation Front of the Philippines.

Second Attachment: - Memorandum of Understanding between S.L.P.P. and Iran.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
13 December 1997

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council has been informed of the release from ECOMOG stating that their Alpha jet attacked Benduma Village because guns were fired at it by the villagers. This is a blatant lie. Benduma Village consists of subsistence farmers.

The real reason why the village was attacked was revealed by General Malu over the BBC yesterday evening. In a press release read over the BBC, General Malu states that he ordered the attack because the villagers in Benduma Village were supporting the AFRC and revealing the bases of the Kamajors to the AFRC.

General Victor Malu has repeatedly stated that the use of military might is the answer to our nation's crisis. As recently as last week, he stated clearly that the use of military force was what brought the AFRC to the negotiating table.

This is not only untrue but very misleading. This is in the light of the fact that the AFRC does not have as much access to the international community and Mr Kofi Annan as the ECOMOG forces through Dr James Jonah does. The AFRC has since its conception repeatedly informed the international community of its willingness for dialogue.

The international community has in turn repeatedly turned down our requests that the leader of the RUF and Vice Chairman of the AFRC, Corporal Foday Sankoh, be involved in these dialogues. Corporal Sankoh is being held illegally in Nigeria. There can be no dialogue or disarmament without the full participation of Corporal Sankoh.

These deliberate and shameful lies from the Kabbah cabal have ranged from lies about Hausa citizens being attacked, to statements about the whole country being in a state of anarchy, and even more dangerous propaganda about the AFRC buying nerve gas to use on innocent civilians.

General Malu's release that was read over the BBC went on further to state that he ordered the attack and would continue to order similar attacks because the AFRC is, according to his biased viewpoint, attacking Kamajor bases.

Not a single mention was made, of all the numerous Kamajor acts of atrocities, that have been committed in recent weeks by the Kamajors, after receiving five months of intensive training from Nigerian NIFAG troops.

The AFRC is fully committed to the Conakry Peace Plan. However, it must be noted that these acts of the Nigerian dominated ECOMOG force shows just how biased they are towards our

nation's crisis. They have more than adequately proved that they are not neutral in our nation's present crisis.

The AFRC is not intransigent towards implementing the Conakry Accord. The intransigence and non-neutrality is from the Nigerian dominated ECOMOG force and from the continued refusal by Nigeria to release our Vice Chairman.

Allieu Badara Kamara
State House
Freetown

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
14 December 1997

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council would like to condemn in its entirety, the front-page article entitled "Kabbah to Reduce Cabinet" that appeared in The Vision newspaper of Saturday, December 13th, 1997.

The article, claiming to be covering the growing rift between Alhaji Kabbah & his ministers in Guinea, was nothing more than a subtle attempt at instigating tribal animosity towards the Creoles.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, under the leadership of His Excellency, Major John Paul Koroma, find these tactics by disgruntled members of the Kabbah cabal to be not only highly offensive but also extremely dangerous. It was this same tribalistic attitude that was one of the reasons behind the May 25th takeover.

We quote certain statements from the offensive piece:

"Kabbah has surrounded himself with a Creole conclave who now pose as the President's confidants"

"Will Kabbah sacrifice the interest of the party that made him president just to satisfy his Creole friends"

"One SLPP strongman asked this writer in Conakry, "Will you be surprised if Creole people like Desmond Luke and Garvas Betts are made ministers?" Unquote.

After reading the article, one is left without any doubt that the overexuberant negative references to the Creoles by the SLPP must be strongly condemned. The Vision newspaper is owned by SLPP member, Siaka Massaquoi.

An even worrying scenario develops when the same edition of The Vision shows a picture of Hinga Norman surrounded by heavily armed tribal Kamajors who declare their intent to "over-run Freetown". Sierra Leoneans would recall Alhaji Kabbah's BBC condemnation of some of the activities of Hinga Norman. It is now apparent that Hinga Norman holds a grievance against certain people whom he perceives as being advisers to Alhaji Kabbah.

The government of Major John Paul Koroma would like to assure all Creoles and other residents of Freetown that they are completely safe and no SLPP strongman can bring a tribal militia to "over-run Freetown". The Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone is in full control and would do all in its power to protect its citizens from victimisation by power hungry warlords and their foreign allies.

As a final note, the AFRC would like to once more extend its deepest sympathy to the villagers of Benduma and the relatives of those killed by the illegal bombardment of the village by

Nigerian war planes. It is obvious that the village was specifically targeted because the villagers therein are in full support of the AFRC's sincere efforts to bring lasting peace to our beloved country.

State House
14th December 1997

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
3 January 1998

The following is a press release from the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Colonel A.B.Y. Kamara.

The Government of Sierra Leone under the leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel John-Paul Koroma would like to thank all of our gallant soldiers for strictly obeying orders which requested all personnel of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces to refrain from firing shots on December 31st in their usual bid to welcome in the New Year. The government is proud of all our gallant soldiers who, understanding the reasons behind this order, strictly abided by them. No jubilating soldier fired any shot in any city or town through-out the whole of Sierra Leone.

Under the leadership of the former Head of State, Mr Tejan Kabbah, ten (10) people died as a result of firing on December 31st 1996 and several more were seriously wounded and hospitalised.

The government however expresses its regret, anger and shock at the involvement of some senior government personnel in the looting of the Iranian embassy at Wilkinson Road, Freetown, on December 31st 1997.

Based on the report from the committee set up by His Excellency, Lt-Colonel John-Paul Koroma, the Under-Secretary of State, Defence, Colonel A.B.Y. Kamara has taken the following disciplinary measures:

The following People's Revolutionary Leaders and State Monitors have been sacked from the Supreme Council of State, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the armed forces with immediate effect:

People's Revolutionary Leader Hassan Bangura.

People's Revolutionary Leader Foday Kallon.

People's Revolutionary Leader Brima Kamara.

People's Revolutionary Leader w/o II Mohamed Kallon.

People's Revolutionary Leader Alfred Brown (People's Army)

All government property and looted items have been recovered from these sacked individuals and have been handed over to civil police.

People's Revolutionary Leader Tamba Gborie has been reduced in rank from sergeant to lance-corporal and he has been sacked from the Supreme Council and the A.F.R.C. government with immediate effect. All government vehicles have been removed from him except for one utility vehicle which he would be using for errands. All security personnel attached to Tamba Gborie

have been recalled to defence headquarters except for two personal bodyguards. L/Cpl Tamba Gborie is on a very stiff probation.

Lt-Colonel Issa Sesay [People's Army] will lose three months salary and will be dealt with severely if he embarks on any further anti-revolutionary inclination.

The government looks on these acts of looting at the Iranian Embassy as a deliberate act of sabotage and the above corrective measures are to act as a deterrent to any other personnel or civilian embarking on looting.

Western Area Security Personnel [WASP] will henceforth guard the Iranian Embassy. Army engineers will do all necessary assessment of the damage to the Embassy and immediate repairs have already been embarked on.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has issued a letter of apology to the Iranian government yesterday.

All civilians who were involved in the looting of the Embassy, should with immediate effect return all looted food and other looted items to the police or be prepared to face the full penalty of the law.

Signed

Colonel A.B.Y. Kamara
Under-Secretary of State, Defence
Freetown,
Sierra Leone

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
3 January 1998

AFRC SUPREME COUNCIL OF STATE
PRESS RELEASE

This is a very important & urgent press release from the AFRC Supreme Council.

The Government of Sierra Leone, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council would like to inform the world about a grave and very disturbing new development in our ongoing National Crisis.

We have received intelligence reports from Lungi which indicate that Nigerian troops illegally occupying our International Airport are now posing a new threat to the security of this our tiny country.

Yesterday Night at around 23:00GMT, a number of Yoruba officers and men stationed at Lungi, were rounded up and are all presently under arrest.

It is alleged that they were planning a mutiny against their superior ECOMOG officers together with other Yoruba soldiers based in Abuja so as to take control of the top-class heavy artillery and war-planes whilst awaiting orders from their superior Yoruba counter-parts in Abuja.

Those who were arrested included a Yoruba Captain who is very popular amongst the ranks in the Nigerian Force at Lungi. This Yoruba Captain and the other arrested men are to be flown out of Lungi today on a special flight bound for Abuja where they should face a tribunal.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council would like to condemn this blatant and very obvious tribal game being played by General Abacha.

The most devastating report however, is that other members of the Nigerian Army stationed at Jui and Lungi are bitterly opposed to these unwarranted arrests and have threatened to revolt. It now seems that a full scale shoot-out between soldiers sympathetic to the arrested Yoruba soldiers and those loyal to Northern officers like Victor Malu, might occur.

For obvious reasons, the Nigerian officers are making desperate attempts to keep the crisis quiet but indications as at this time, indicate that the situation is very tense amongst the Nigerians at Lungi and a fierce shoot-out could occur at anytime.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, whilst being extremely sympathetic to the plight of the Yorubas in the Nigerian army, would like to plead with all Nigerian soldiers that a full scale shoot-out, the likes of which appear to be imminent at the moment, amongst belligerent

members of the Nigerian army would prove to be disastrous for the people of Sierra Leone, given the type of heavy weapons and artillery the Nigerian Army in Sierra Leone and Liberia presently possess.

Due to the ineptitude and incompetence of Alhaji Kabbah's SLPP administration in handling the affairs of state, Sierra Leoneans presently have tribal tensions running very high. An importation of Nigeria's Tribal tensions created by General Abacha's anti-Yoruba campaign onto the already smouldering Sierra Leonean crisis can only portend doom, doom and more doom for our beloved country.

In this regard, the Government of Sierra Leone is desperately appealing to our Yoruba brothers in the Nigerian Army to resist any attempt at bringing the Abacha Tribal debacle onto Sierra Leonean soil. Our people have suffered enough. Sierra Leoneans need peace at this time. The AFRC is extremely sympathetic to the plight of the Yorubas in Nigeria but we pray that they keep their Internal conflict inside Nigeria.

Signed.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
8 January 1998

The Government of Sierra Leone, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, under the leadership of his Excellency, Lt-Colonel John Paul Koroma, welcomes the decision to relieve Major-General Victor Malu of his duties as head of the ECOMOG force.

The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council welcomes the appointment of Major General Timothy Shelpidi as the new ECOMOG boss.

However, whilst the appointment of Major General Shelpidi is welcomed, the AFRC would like to reiterate its just contention that ECOMOG is over-dominated by Nigerian soldiers.

It was hoped that General Abacha would soon be recalling more of his men home to Nigeria, in the wake of General Malu so as to help him solve the present tribal conflict looming in their country.

However, it was with the greatest dismay that we heard General Malu this morning refer to ECOMOG as an intervention force.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1132 does not endorse ECOMOG as an intervention force. Infact, the United States envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Bill Richardson, specifically stated on October 8th 1997, that the role of ECOMOG is to inspect ships at sea, within international standards.

Ships not carrying arms or petroleum products are to be immediately allowed to enter our country. Contrary to the shameless propaganda being circulated by Alhaji Kabbah and his cohorts, there is nowhere in Resolution 1132 or the Conakry Peace Plan that links the deployment of ECOMOG with the distribution of humanitarian aid.

There is nowhere in Resolution 1132 or the Conakry Peace Plan that links the deployment of ECOMOG with the entry of ships carrying essential commodities into Sierra Leone. Why is Nigeria now starving the people of Sierra Leone? Why is Mr Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, turning a blind eye to the excesses of his friend, General Sani Abacha?

I here repeat my last question which is directed at the international community; why is Mr Kofi Annan allowing his friend, General Sani Abacha to starve the people of Sierra Leone? Why?

No-one has mandated General Abacha's troops to blockade our waters or seize out international airport. No-one has mandated ECOMOG to interfere militarily inside Sierra Leone.

No-one has authorised the Nigerians to train and arm the tribal Kamajor militia as they have now been doing. Their mandate is not to take on any form of militarism upon the citizens of Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leoneans completely oppose the suggestion by Nigeria that Nigerian ECOMOG forces occupying Sierra Leone be tripled in number.

Sierra Leoneans are fully aware that General Abacha needs to get several Nigerian soldiers, particularly of the Yoruba tribe, out of Nigeria. We wish to note however that Sierra Leone is not a dumping ground for soldiers whom General Abacha perceives as a threat to his existence.

Sierra Leoneans are already badly traumatised by the illegal bombing of our nation by Nigeria. We do not want them to import any more tribal tensions [Nigerian or Sierra Leonean] into our nation.

We would also wish to remind the Nigerians that at the moment they have caused significant and extensive loss of lives and property on sierra Leonean soil, by bombs recklessly dropped by General Malu's bloodthirsty Alpha jet pilots:

At present, there are over a thousand recorded civilian deaths as a direct result of Nigeria's illegal bombardment of Sierra Leone.

Finally and most importantly, the AFRC wishes to state that our ideals since May 25, 1997 are still the same. Our goal has always been to bring sustainable peace and development to Sierra Leone so as to build a solid foundation for democracy. It is in this light that we are again demanding that our vice chairman, Corporal Foday Saybana Sankoh be released from his illegal detention in Nigeria. His presence is mandatory towards the realisation of our goal.

Signed

A. Bailor Barrie
Spokesman & P.R.O.
A.F.R.C.
Freetown.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

Press Release
5 February 1998

THERE IS SOME MILD CONFUSION IN THE RANKS OF THE KABBAH TERRORIST GROUP [K.T.G.].

WITH THE RECENT ARREST OF THEIR THAILAND FINANCIER IN CANADA, A MAJOR SHIFT IN FUNDING AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BY THE KABBAH TERRORIST GROUP [K.T.G] HAS NOW OCCURRED.

MR SERGE MULLER, THEIR PRIMARY MIDDLE MAN HAS HAD ONE OF HIS BOGUS COMPANIES CALLED WHITE SWAN RESOURCES RECREATED AND REARRANGED.

MR SHEKI GIBRIL BANGURA, THE HUSBAND OF ZAINAB BANGURA, HAS BEEN NAMED ONE OF THE DIRECTORS. MRS. ZAINAB BANGURA, IS ONE OF THE TRIO WHICH INCLUDES JULIUS SPENCER, IN THE THIEVING N.G.O. CALLED "CAMPAIGN FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE [CGG]" WHICH WAS CREATED AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL RIGGING OF THE 1996 ELECTIONS.

WHITE SWAN RESOURCES LTD. HAS PURCHASED TWO SINGLE BLADE HELICOPTERS FOR THE TERRORIST KABBAH GROUP AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF HIRING SEVERAL HUNDRED MERCENARIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH THE BRITISH COMPANY KNOWN AS SANDLINE.

ANY BRITISH CITIZEN WHO IS BACKING THE K.T.G. [KABBAH TERRORIST GROUP] SHOULD TODAY BE FOREWARNED THAT THEIR TERRORIST PLANS WILL FAIL.

THE DIRECTORS WHO WERE PROFFERED BY THE THAILAND FINANCIER, NAMELY, WAYNE SCHIGOL AND SUSAN SCHIGOL HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN.

WORKING ON OUR REGULAR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SENT FROM LUNGI, THE AFRC WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT OF AMMUNITION THAT WAS DROPPED FROM ONE OF THESE K.T.G. HELICOPTERS A FEW DAYS AGO FOR SOME KAMAJORS. THE CAPTURED KAMAJORS, PRESENTLY AT COCKERILL HAVE GIVEN US SOME VERY USEFUL INFORMATION ON THE PLANS BY THE K.T.G. FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS.

THE TROOPS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE'S ARMED FORCES ARE ON FULL RED ALERT. THE KABBAH TERRORIST GROUP [K.T.G.] IS IN FOR A MIGHTY SURPRISE.

AMIDU BAILOR BAH
SPOKESMAN - AFRC

BY MRS. FODAY SAYBANA SANKOH,
STATE HOUSE,
FREETOWN

(After keeping quiet for all these months, I will now say the following piece as I see an impending doom arising out of the present Sierra Leone situation. If Cpl F.S. Sankoh is not released, I can assure the whole wide world that the fighters of the People's Army will not disarm. Nay! Not a single one will disarm. Let no-one underestimate our fighters in numbers, strength, skills or determination. A word to the wise.....)

THIS IS AN OPEN PIECE TO THE WORLD ON BEHALF OF MY HUSBAND PRESENTLY KEPT ILLEGALLY IN NIGERIA AGAINST HIS WISHES BY THE DICTATOR, SANI ABACHA.

I AM PLEADING WITH THE WORLD TO ALLOW LASTING PEACE TO RETURN TO SIERRA LEONE. THE ECOWAS COMMITTEE OF FIVE, THE OAU AND THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE COMMONWEALTH HAVE ALL BEEN SIGNATORIES AND MORAL GUARANTORS TO THE NOVEMBER 1996 ABIDJAN PEACE ACCORD SIGNED BY MY HUSBAND AND TEJAN KABBAH.

WHY WAS THE ABIDJAN PEACE PLAN NEVER IMPLEMENTED? WHO WENT AGAINST THE ABIDJAN PEACE PLAN? WHO ENGINEERED THAT MY HUSBAND BE LOCKED UP IN JAIL WITH OTHER PEOPLE LIKE ABIOLA, OBASANJO AND YA' ARDUA?

WHO IS GOING AGAINST THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN? WHY HAS MY HUSBAND NOT BEEN RELEASED YET? WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE DOING IN NEW YORK TODAY? WHY HAVE THEY NEVER BEEN INTO SIERRA LEONE SINCE THEY SIGNED THAT THEY WILL VISIT ON NOVEMBER 20TH 1997.

WHO FIRST WENT AGAINST THE PEACE PLAN? WHO WAS IT WHO HAS NOT ALLOWED FOOD OR HUMANITARIAN AID TO ENTER SIERRA LEONE SINCE NOVEMBER 14TH AS THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN STATES?

WHO IS IT WHO ARE NOW IN NEW YORK AND WHOM HAVE NOT ENTERED SIERRA LEONE SINCE NOVEMBER 20TH AS THEY PROMISED? WHY ARE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ALLOWING SIERRA LEONEANS TO STARVE?

LET NO-ONE MAKE ANY MISTAKE ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY TOWARDS MY HUSBAND. THE FIGHTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY WILL DIE FOR THEIR LEADER, CPL FODAY SAYBANA SANKOH. FOR PEACE TO RETURN TO SIERRA LEONE, THE RUF LEADER SHOULD BE RELEASED HENCEFORTH FROM CAPTIVITY AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

THIS IS THE STRENGTH OF THE ABIDJAN PEACE ACCORD AND IT IS THE STRENGTH OF THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN. THERE WILL BE NO PROGRESS WITHOUT IT.

MRS ISATU SANKOH,
FREETOWN

RESEARCH AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT
PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY BUREAU
SLATER TERRACE
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

The Research & Public Relations Unit of The People's Revolutionary Bureau is an arm of the AFRC whose sole purpose is to research and find out facts for the use of the AFRC Government and the World at large. The Director, Patrick Amara, is a Mende who hails from the South-East and a member of the growing number of Mendes who have started to wise up to the fact that the tribalistic jargons we have been fed through the years by the likes of Mana Kpaka and Paul Dumber are no longer a fitting tune to dance to.

WE PUBLISH BELOW A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CIVIL DEFENCE UNIT, A MISNOMER FOR THE REBEL GROUP, THE KAMAJORS, KNOWN AS THE MILITARY WING OF THE OUSTED TEJAN KABBA LED SLPP GOVERNMENT.

THE STATEMENT IS SIGNED BY EX-CAPTAIN HUMPHREY SWARRAY, A SQUAD MATE IN THE ARMY, OF EX-CAPT. HINGA NORMAN AND ALSO AN ACCOMPLICE TO THE INFAMOUS ARREST AND DETENTION OF THE THEN GOVERNOR GENERAL AND PRIME MINISTER OF SIERRA LEONE IN 1967.

THIS WAS AN ACT INSTIGATED BY THE DEFEATED SLPP IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF THAT YEAR. AN ACT WHICH ALSO RECORDED THE FIRST EVER COUP-D'ETAT IN THE ANNALS OF SIERRA LEONE. YES INDEED, THESE SLPP

PEOPLE LIKE POWER AND THESE SLPP WOULD DESTROY EVERYWHERE AND ANYTHING TO GET POWER.

INDEED, THIRTY YEARS AFTER SWARRAY & NORMAN PLUNGED THIS NATION INTO CHAOS BY PLOTTING THE FIRST COUP EVER, THEY ARE BACK AGAIN. THIS TIME TO COMPLETELY KILL OFF THE CITIZENS. IN 1967, THEY WERE FIGHTING TO PREVENT DEMOCRACY TAKING HOLD AFTER THE SLPP LOST ELECTIONS. IN 1997, THEY SAY THEY ARE FIGHTING TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY!! WHAT IRONY!

HUMPHREY SWARRAY WAS CASHIERED OUT OF THE ARMY IMMEDIATELY SIAKA STEVENS TOOK OVER THE REIGNS OF GOVERNMENT IN 1968 FOR HIS ROLE IN THE AFFAIR. IN 1998, THE AFRC WILL MAKE SURE HE IS REALLY CASHIERED OUT IF HE DOES NOT STOP THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE MASSACRE OF SIERRA LEONEANS.

ON LEAVING THE ARMY SWARRAY LEFT THIS COUNTRY AND RETURNED YEARS LATER BRANDISHING A MASTERS DEGREE IN MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GOD KNOWS WHERE, AND WAS SENT TO WORK FOR THE NOW DEFUNCT NDMC . THEREAFTER HE WAS HELD MANY CHEQUERED AND CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENTS INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL OFFICER, GENERAL MANAGER, SALPOST, TERMINATING WITH HIS LATEST APPOINTMENT WITH THE SIERRA LEONE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY(SLAA), AS PERSONNEL MANAGER AND LATER CATAPULTED TO THE ENVIABLE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER AFTER PULLING SOME POLITICAL STRINGS.

RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE THE AUTHORITY'S ACCOUNTANT MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED AND LEFT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND MILLIONS OF LEONES UNACCOUNTED FOR IN HIS BOOKS. SWARRAY WAS SUSPECTED OF COLLUSION IN THE AFFAIR AND APPEARED BEFORE THE AUTHORITY'S BOARD CHARGED FOR WHAT IS REGARDED IN ADMINISTRATIVE JARGON "FOR LACK OF SUPERVISION OF HIS SUBORDINATE". HE WAS FIRED BY THE NPRC AND THE JOB GIVEN TO ONE MR. BULL.

PRIOR TO THE 1966 ELECTIONS SWARRAY MINGLED WITH THE SLPP CROWD AND BECAME AN ERRAND BOY WITH THE PROMISE THAT HE WILL GET HIS JOB BACK AS A REPRISAL, BULL WAS DULY SACKED AND THE JOB IMMEDIATELY ADVERTISED, SWARRAY RE-APPLIED. THE BOARD WAS TO MEET BEFORE EVENTS OF MAY 25TH OVER TOOK HIS CHANCES. HIS BREAD AND BUTTER HAVING BEEN DESTROYED, HE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RECOURSE TO KAMAJOR ACTIVITIES. THIS SHOWS HOW SIERRA LEONEANS WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO DESTROY THIS COUNTRY FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH ENDS.

ALSO, READERS SHOULD TAKE PARTICULAR NOTE OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY SWARRAY TO THE EFFECT THAT AS THE MILITARY WING OF THE SLPP THEY (KAMAJORS) AND TEJAN KABBA CANNOT SUBSCRIBE

TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONAKRY ACCORD SINCE THEY WERE NOT PARTIES TO ITS DELIBERATIONS.

THIS PROVES THAT TEJAN KABBA ONLY ACQUIESCED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ACCORD AFTER PRESSURES FROM ABACHA TO AVOID A VOLTE-FACE OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. WHO IS NOW FINDING FLAWS AND DERAILING THE PEACE TALKS.

IT ALSO INFORMS US THAT THE KAMAJORS WITH THEIR GREEN PALM TREE UNIFORMS ARE REALLY ONLY FIGHTING FOR SLPP AND NOT FOR DEMOCRACY. ABASS BUNDU, KAREFA-SMART, EDDIE TURAY, JOHN KARIMU, THAIMU BANGURA, ABU KOROMA, JAMES JONAH AND OTHERS SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE WORDS OF VICTOR MALU WHICH ARE:

THE KAMAJORS ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH INTEREST AND NOT FOR DEMOCRACY.

TOLONGBO!! lonta!! lonta!!

RESEARCH AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT
PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY BUREAU
SLATER TERRACE
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

JOE DEMBY OKAY'S MENDE MASSACRE! OUSTED AND DISGRACED EX-SLPP VICE PRESIDENT ALBERT JOE DEMBY WHO HAS BEEN HOLED UP IN HANGERS AT THE LUNGI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OCCUPIED BY NIGERIANS SINCE THE MAY 25TH CHANGE OF BATON, HAS BROKEN HIS SILENCE, BY PUBLICLY ENDORSING THE CONTINUOUS KILLINGS AND BRUTALISATION OF THE MENDES BY THEIR OWN SLPP KAMAJOR MILITIAMEN.

DR JOE DEMBY MAKING HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE THE AFRC FLUSHED OUT THE CORRUPT TRIBALISTIC SLPP REGIME ON THE 25TH MAY LAST YEAR SAID IN AN INTERVIEW AIRED OVER THE CLANDESTINE RADIO OF DOOM AND DEMONS, FM 98.1 ON THURSDAY LAST THAT HE SUPPORTED MILITARY INTERVENTION AIMED AT DESTROYING SIERRA LEONE AND KILLING EVERYONE PRESENTLY WITHIN ITS TERRITORY.

QUESTIONED ABOUT THE SLPP KAMAJOR BRUTAL KILLINGS OF PARAMOUNT CHIEF ALBERT SANDY DEMBY OF BOAMA CHIEFDOM WITH HEADQUARTERS IN GERIHUN SOME TWELVE MILES FROM BO WHO WAS HIS UNCLE AND

PARAMOUNT CHIEF SANDI DASSAMA OF DAMA CHIEFDOM IN THE KENEMA DISTRICT ALSO A RELATIVE, THE ERSTWHILE SLPP VICE PRESIDENT QUIPPED

"IF MENDES KILL MENDES THAT IS NOT A PROBLEM AND IN FACT IT IS NOT MY BUSINESS AS LONG AS MY AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS ARE ON COURSE"

THESE STATEMENTS ACCORDING TO POLITICAL OBSERVERS WERE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT AS LONG AS JOE DEMBY'S CLAIM TO THE SLPP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLING REMAIN ON COURSE AND BACKED BY HIS LOYAL KAMAJOR MILITIA, ANY MENDE WHO DIE IN THE PROCESS CAN GO TO HELL.

ANOTHER ISSUE RAISED BY POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN AMERICA X- RAYING THE SIERRA LEONE POLITICAL IMBROGLIO IS THE QUESTION OF WHO ARE THE KAMAJORS FIGHTING FOR? TEJAN KABBA OR JOE DEMBY?

TWO SIERRA LEONEAN GROUPS IN NEW JERSEY AND PHILADELPHIA RESPECTIVELY NOTED WITH DISGUST THAT OUSTED TEJAN KABBA APPOINTED LAWYER D.B. QUEE AS THE ONLY SLPP CABINET MINISTER FROM THE EASTERN REGION (KENEMA) AND APPOINTED DISGRACED EX-ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SOLOMON BEREWA AS THE ONLY SLPP CABINET MINISTER FROM BO SOUTHERN REGION, WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS A TRAVESTY.

SOLOMON BEREWA'S APPOINTMENT BY TEJAN KABBA THE U.S. BASED GROUPS STRESSED, STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT THEY ALL BELONGED TO THE ERSTWHILE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL'S CABAL.

POLITICAL OBSERVERS ALSO CONFIDED IN "WE YONE NEWS PAPER" THAT LATEST REPORTS ON THE KAMAJOR ISSUE CONFIRMED THAT THE SLPP PRIVATE MILITIA IS NOW A MIXTURE OF ULIMO "K" FIGHTERS UNDER THE DIRECT INFLUENCE OF ALHAJI KOROMA OF LIBERIA PRESENTLY HIBERNATING IN GUINEA WHERE HE AND TEJAN KABBA ARE REPORTEDLY PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT LANSANA CONTE.

COMPETENT SOURCES IN GUINEA INTIMATED THE "WE YONE" THAT TEJAN KABBA HAS BEEN HOLDING SECRET MEETINGS WITH MADINGO'S IN THE COMPANY OF FUGITIVE ALHAJI KOROMA OF LIBERIA WITH A VIEW TO DRUMMING SUPPORT TO DISTABILISE SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA AND GUINEA.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
7 February 1998

STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL YOUTH COALITION FOR LASTING PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE NIGERIAN LED INTERVENTION FORCE AND FORCES OF THE ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE.

The National Youth Coalition for Peace, Democracy and Development, a non-political, non-partisan organisation for youth organisations will make the following statement for the attention of all Sierra Leonean youths, all peace loving Sierra Leoneans, the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), all youths the world over, the United Nations and the International Community.

It is now eight months since the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council assumed the reigns of office as the Government of Sierra Leone.

The Government of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council has been widely condemned by the International Community and this has caused the condemnation to spread to the poor and innocent citizens of Sierra Leone.

Even though UNSCR 1132 does not impose outright sanctions on imported food items and medicine, the Nigerian-led intervention force under the guise of ECOMOG have blockaded both the land and sea ports thereby preventing the importation of food and medicine. Even humanitarian assistance have been prevented from coming to the aid of our poor and dying internally displaced brothers, sisters and families.

The Nigerians have on several occasions since June 2, 1997 bombed several civilian communities, killing close to three thousand, five hundred (3,500) Sierra Leoneans.

Residents living in the illegal and forcefully occupied areas like Lungi and Jui are repeatedly subjected to continuous harassment and molestation.

While the Nigerian-led intervention Force continue their acts of naked barbarism and brutal disrespect for human rights and rule of law, the United Nations and the International Community continue to turn a blind eye and remain mute as the Nigerians continue their carnage on innocent civilians.

As all this is going on, the Sierra Leonean society has been completely traumatised, but the visit of UN Special Envoy, Ambassador Okello and his passionate and frank assessment of the situation on the ground relieved Sierra Leoneans from the pains of stress.

Just two days before the United Nations Security Council meets to discuss Sierra Leone and the reports made by Ambassador Francis Okello, the Nigerian intervention force have again started to indiscriminately bomb various parts of the Country and the resumption of hostilities between the Nigerian led intervention force and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Government have claimed the lives of over seventy-five (75) civilians.

At Calaba Town, a family of eighteen (18) were killed by Nigerian troops as they tried to forcefully enter the city on Friday 6th February, 1998. A passenger vehicle travelling through Jui to Waterloo was shot at, killing all the passengers on board.

It is against this background that we unequivocally call on Sierra Leonean Youths to be steadfast in our quest for lasting peace, sustainable democracy and national development.

We also call on the International Community to ask the Nigerian-led intervention force and the forces of the AFRC to observe an immediate cessation of hostilities.

We further demand the immediate withdrawal of the Nigerian-led intervention force from the shores of Sierra Leone. We call on the International Community especially the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, the Commonwealth and ECOWAS to make this a reality, we perceive and do believe that the presence of the Nigerian led intervention force in Sierra Leone will continue to fan the flames of discord which will take Sierra Leone into a bloody civil war.

Therefore we outrightly condemn the moves made by Ex-President Tejan-Kabba, James Jonah, John Leigh and their cohorts to hire the Nigerians and other trained mercenaries to aid the Kamajors (Mende faction) to launch an all out war on the people of Sierra Leone.

We wish to draw the attention of the Ex-President and his cohorts that democracy does not entertain the use of force, the basis of democracy is negotiations based on mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for each other.

We call on the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and ECOWAS to speed up the implementation of the Conakry Peace Plan.

We call for the supply of Humanitarian and relief assistance to our internally displaced people and for the importation of basic food items and medicine.

We call on all Sierra Leoneans, especially the youths, not to allow politics to divide our unity and not allow corrupt politicians to misuse us this time around.

Finally, we call on all the youths of the World to help us in Sierra Leone shape our future by pressurizing their Governments to ensure that the desires expressed by us, the youths of Sierra Leone, are taken into consideration.

LONG LIVE YOUTH SOLIDARITY
LONG LIVE PEACE AND UNITY
LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SOLIDARITY AND CO-OPERATION

I thank you all.

Faithfully read-out by Mr. Sulaiman Suntus Kamara

PUBLIC NOTICE ISSUED BY THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY IN SIERRA LEONE

It could be recalled that during the Nigerian Civil War, a lot of West African countries were reluctant to accommodate Nigerians fleeing from the fight back home; Sierra Leone was one of the very few countries which open-handedly and whole-heartedly welcomed Nigerians; since then Sierra Leoneans have always granted hospitable accommodation to Nigerians.

This signalled the beginning of a Nigerian community in Sierra Leone of which we are a part. We have intermarried, made old and new friends, established social relations and have been highly successful in business.

In light of the above, we the Nigerian Community in Sierra Leone see ourselves as part of the Sierra Leone family, as part of the Sierra Leone family we share the joys and sorrows of the people of Sierra Leone.

It is without doubt that the present political impasse is affecting the Nigerian community as much as it is affecting the average and ordinary Sierra Leoneans.

Since June 2, 1997, up till date, the Nigerian community have suffered the loss of brothers, family friends and other Sierra Leonean friends as a result of the indiscriminate shooting and bombing by the Nigerian led ECOMOG force.

It is against this background that we outrightly condemn and decry the new spate of shooting and bombing being committed by Nigerian soldiers in ECOMOG.

We further view Maxwell Khobe's Declaration of War against the Forces of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front Government as inconsiderate, unreasonable, provocative and unfortunate.

The Nigerian Community is of the opinion that Sierra Leoneans have the ability to settle their differences in a peaceful manner as had been demonstrated in Bintumani I and II of 1995 and 1996 respectively.

In this regard, we are calling on our brothers, sisters, friends and all peace loving Nigerians to prevail on General Sani Abacha to withdraw our troops from Sierra Leone and to completely hands-off the Sierra Leonean impasse.

We the Nigerians living in Sierra Leone are convinced that our Nigerian brothers in combat are being killed, maimed and slaughtered in their numbers, all unbeknowing to the people of Nigeria.

We believe that in the interest of regional co-operation, Nigeria should help to build Sierra Leone and not to divide and destroy it.

We once more appeal to our Nigerian brothers in combat to refuse all orders to shoot and kill innocent civilians, and to desist from training and arming Kamajors to create total disorder and chaos.

We finally call on all to help Sierra Leoneans settle their disputes peacefully.

Faithfully signed.

ABUBAKARR MUHAMMAH
National Secretary General

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
8 February 1998

NIGERIANS MASSACRE INNOCENT CIVILIANS

Eyewitness Reports

The Nigerian-led intervention has massacred scores of innocent civilians at Grafton Village, near the ECOMOG Base at Jui.

According to eyewitness Reports, a group of armed men, who, residents of Grafton Village say are Kamajors and Nigerians dressed in ECOMOG military combat uniforms arrived stealthily in the village asking for the whereabouts of AFRC/RUF supporters.

"Residents of the Village refused to co-operate with them," the eyewitness went on to say.

"We shouted at them, booed them and closed our doors at their faces," said Pa Alimamy Kanu, the Regent Chief of Grafton Village.

"Even the youths organised pocket groups to resist their threats," said Kemokai Tarawally, who claims to be the Deputy Secretary-General for the Grafton Youth Movement for Peace and Love in Sierra Leone.

Because of the lack of co-operation on the part of the civilian population, the Nigerian-led intervention force decided to turn their guns on the innocent civilians.

The village of Grafton was besieged by sporadic and indiscriminate gun-fire after which it was set on fire by the retreating Nigerian-led intervention force.

The entire village was thrown into panic as people ran helter-skelter to save dear life. Several people could be seen lying dead in different parts of the Grafton Village. The stench of smoke and debris that could be smelt and seen is a pointer to the fact that a terrific inferno has just been over.

There are only a few houses at Grafton Village now and the once lively and thriving village is now a ghost town. Not even the dogs, fowls and pigs were spared.

The Assistant Director for the National League of Human Rights and Democracy, Mr. Yusuf Deen-Sandy has said in Freetown that the International Community should not sit by and allow Nigeria to extend her gross disregard for Human Rights to innocent Sierra Leoneans.

He referred to the Grafton incident as the worse genocide that has ever taken place in Sierra Leone since the beginning of the rebel war in Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, Chief Sanni Sesay has warned that the continued presence of Nigerian troops in Sierra Leone will lead the country to a deadly civil war.

Chief Sanni said "We have concrete evidence to prove that the Nigerians are training and arming the Kamajors to attack Freetown," while addressing his tribesmen at his local court.

Related reports also state that the Kamajors, assisted by the Nigerians, have captured all Temnes, Krios and Limbas residing at Jui and Hastings.

Reports further state that these people are tortured, maimed and killed. Civilians fleeing from those areas have confirmed these reports.

ECOMOG JET DOWN - TWO MORE TO GO!!!

The Forces of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front fired an ECOMOG Jet Fighter today, Sunday February 8th, 1998.

The Jet Fighter was on its usual bombing routine in Freetown. It was fired at as it flew over Calaba Town. It flew down in the Kissy area where the civilian population ran towards it and started to stone the burning jet.

The Pilot and Co-Pilots died on the spot. Their bodies were tied on a moving vehicle and driven across the city with throngs of civilians shouting "Nar Johnny Paul we want! Nar Johnny nar we man! We nor want war, nar peace we want!"

Meanwhile reports monitored from the fighting front state that Nigerians have dislodged from their bases at Jui and are running with their tails in-between their legs. They have now scattered into the bush and are firing indiscriminately as they run for cover.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Briefing
9 February 1998

PRESS BRIEFING BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE AFRC,
COL. A.K. SESAY, ON FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY, 1998 AT 11:00 A.M.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Ladies and gentlemen, during our last meeting, I informed you about the desire of the AFRC to have constant briefing with you as a way of improving on our existing relationship, and also a measure of strengthening the effort of the AFRC towards the attainment of lasting peace in Sierra Leone. This press briefing is one in that series.

I have every hope that with the New Year, you are all fresh in your minds and resolved for objective reporting at a time when the bites of sanctions can provide enough room for you to be lured by politicians for their own selfish gains. With these few remarks I would want to state that the main thrust of this briefing is the Conakry Peace Plan - the way forward, from the AFRC point of view.

2. KEY ELEMENTS OF THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN

The cardinal elements of the plan are:

immediate cessation of hostilities;

Ex-President Kabba to lead a broadly based government by April 22, 1998;

provision of humanitarian assistance;

disarmament, demobilization and re-integration of combatants;

the release of Corporal Foday Saybannah Sankoh;

These are the key elements of the Conakry Peace Plan, designed to enhance a peaceful and smooth transfer of power to ex-President Tejan Kabbah; come April 22, 1998. Several measures were put in place as confidence building process between the AFRC, ECOMOG and the rest of the international community.

A quick review of these key elements shows that much has not been achieved owing to many reasons. In the first place, the plan stipulates without any pre-conditions that arrangements for the flow of humanitarian assistance was to start on November 14, 1997. The ECOWAS Committee of Five seems to be handling this with the international agencies based in Conakry, Guinea, completely isolating the AFRC. No progress has therefore been made here on the ground.

As part of the confidence-building process, the ECOWAS Committee of Five was to visit Sierra Leone on the 20th November last year. It is regrettable to note that this committee has never come to assess situation on the ground since the AFRC came into power on 25th May, 1997. Rather decisions taken by this committee have been largely based on false and exaggerated information provided by Kabbah and his team, based hundreds and thousands of miles away in Guinea and the USA, notably James Jonah and John Leigh.

Regarding hostilities, there seemed to have been relative peace up till the end of November, 1997. The highways, which before 25th May, 1997, were death traps, were safe until in December, 1997 when Hinga Norman in concert with Tejan Kabba declared the dastardly Operation Black December, whereby everyone working for a living in Sierra Leone was declared a target.

The Conakry Plan also provides for disarmament, demobilization and re-integration. These activities were to have started on 1st December, 1997, but have not started due to three grey areas that needed further discussion with ECOWAS committee of Five and subsequently member states of ECOWAS. No efforts have been made to address these issues.

Another issue that has been deliberately ignored by the ECOWAS committee of five is that of demobilization and re-integration. ECOMOG only talks about disarmament and there seems to be no plan for demobilization and re-integration, much against the tenet of the Peace Plan. To disarm and leave the ex-combatants for weeks without effective training programmes for alternative and respectable skills for gainful employment, will be suicidal for lasting peace in this country. While UNDP Elizabeth Lwanga based in Guinea is aware of this, she has withheld the UN demobilization and reintegration programme for Sierra Leone in Guinea. Again, there is no such provision in the Conakry Peace Plan to withhold these programmes at any point in time.

The Plan again provides for the release of Corporal Foday Sankoh to enhance the Peace Process. Although no time frame is stipulated in the Plan for this event, it is logical that the attainment of peace, being a dynamic process, requires the immediate release of Corporal Foday Sankoh. This would facilitate the process right at its formative stage of disarmament, rather than at the stage of the formation of the broad-based government. Without the release of Corporal Sankoh, the disarmament process might face serious hurdles thus negating the good intents of those accords reached in his absence.

The Plan has the cardinal element of the formation of a broadly based government. For this exercise to effectively reflect a positive political climate, it must involve all registered political parties that had been suspended, MPs, the RUF, and the AFRC.

ECOWAS must be seen to be facilitating this process if the objective of lasting peace reflecting all interest and shades of opinion is to be achieved. ECOWAS Five committee has taken no action on this thus far. As a way of having a monitoring mechanism, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Anan, sent a Special Envoy to assist in the search for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. The role of this Special Envoy, Mr. Francis Okello was further buttressed in Article 4 of UN Resolution 1132 on Sierra Leone. Mr. Okello has been in the sub-region for nearly four months now. He is based in Conakry, Guinea and compiles his report on Sierra Leone based on false rumours provided by Alhaji Tejan Kabbah and his militia group that are causing destruction, particularly in the South Eastern parts of the country. Okello made a hurried one day visit (without spending a night in Sierra Leone) to Freetown. Now Okello wants to justify that he is in Sierra Leone by informing the AFRC that he would want to be based in Lungi, an area under the Nigeria-led ECOMOG occupation. How genuine is Okello?

3. REASONS FOR THE DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONAKRY PEACE PLAN

i) The AFRC Stance

Since the signing of the Conakry Peace Plan in October last year, many of our detractors including some of you ladies and gentlemen, have blamed the AFRC for the slow implementation of the Plan. They have failed to think over AFRC concerns as pivotal issues contained in the Peace Plan.

AFRC had raised three key issues of concern:

the immediate release of Corporal Foday Sankoh, by General Sani Abacha of Nigeria to join the peace process;

the non-disarmament of the Sierra Leone Army;

and the dominant and clearly biased role played by the Nigeria led ECOMOG.

I am sure one question that immediately comes to mind is whether these issues were not raised at the October (22-23, 1997) Conakry Meeting. Frankly, these were contentious issues raised in Conakry. We insisted on ECOWAS committee of Five to clarify them, but time was not in our favour and therefore settled at the consensus that they be settled by ECOWAS. For us not to return without signing the Peace Plan, thereby sending the wrong signals to our people, that is the people of Sierra Leone and the international community we conceded with the hope that amicable solution would be reached. When the ECOWAS summit was called in Togo in December, 1997, it was our hope that these grey areas would be addressed. But through Nigeria's machinations, Tom Ikimi, Nigeria's Foreign Minister, and Chairman of ECOWAS committee of Five threatened the AFRC with arrests if its representatives were to attend the meeting. However, Ikimi invited Kabba's representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, do we want Corporal Foday Sankoh to join the peace process at the end? How practically logical and feasible will the peace plan hold, now that RUF knows that ECOMOG can facilitate Kabbah's return as was demonstrated by his one day visit to Lungi, but Corporal Foday Sankoh can be continuously held by Nigeria? As a dynamic process, how confident are we that RUF will disarm and equilibrium will hold if Corporal Foday Sankoh joins at the end.

The other issue of concern has been the non-disarmament of the Sierra Leone Army. ECOMOG wants to use the Liberia solution to address our problem here in Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leone case is different as our Army, unlike that of the Army of Liberia, then, is still intact and cohesive culturally, tribally and regionally. What, of course, is clear in all our presentations is the need to restructure the Army in line with the November, 1996, Abidjan Peace Accord.

Our third concern has been the domineering role of the Nigerian contingent in ECOMOG. Without the approval of ECOWAS and the UN Security Council, the Nigerians started bombarding our territory on June 2, 1997 and this continued with the classical case of the destruction of the Defence Headquarters on October 8, 1997, the same day that the Security Council was discussing the Sanctions that imposed Resolution 1132 on Sierra Leone. This raised international concern as Sir John Weston, the British Envoy to the United Nations and a British Lord, Lord Avesbury questioned the authority on whose basis Nigeria was bombing Sierra Leone.

While the Nigerians have provided security for the pro-Kabbah private radio station, plans are again afoot for a nationwide broadcast short wave system to be provided by Nigeria to Kabbah so as to continuously incite trouble in the country much against the Peace Plan.

We have also adequate and reliable information that the Nigerians are forcefully conscripting poor villagers to undertake military training in the Lungi area.

Ladies and gentlemen, without any political bias and for the successful implementation of the Peace Plan are these not critical issues to the successful implementation of the Peace Plan.

ii) Blaming ECOWAS, ECOMOG and the International Community

Article 6 of UN Security Council Resolution on Sierra Leone, UN Resolution 1132 clearly identifies the goods prohibited to be imported into Sierra Leone under the current sanction. These include, petroleum and petroleum products and arms and ammunition. There is no prohibition on the import or export of goods. Article 5 of the same resolution bans AFRC members and adult members of our families from travelling outside Sierra Leone. Article 14 talks about the provision of humanitarian assistance. In their respective comments on the UN Security Council resolution to impose sanctions on Sierra Leone, on 8th October, 1997, Ambassadors Bill Richardson of the United States and Hisashi Owada of Japan expressed concern over the impact of sanction on the poor and vulnerable civil population as follows:

Ambassador Bill Richardson stated:-

"The resolution does not limit shipments of food or medicines or other necessities. It contains provision for regular review of the implementation and impact of the sanctions...The sanctions are designed...to impose a minimum burden on the civilian population".

whilst Ambassador Hisashi Owada stated:-

"... Japan is acutely aware of the possibility that sanctions restricting the sale and supply of petroleum and petroleum products may cause further hardships to the people of Sierra Leone. The draft resolution addresses this point in two ways, namely, first by requesting that appropriate exceptions be made for humanitarian reasons and second, by calling upon ECOWAS, the various agencies of the United Nations and other organisations to endeavour to make appropriate arrangements for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is hoped that through the implementation of these provisions the negative impact of the sanctions on the civilian population will be kept to minimum".

Article 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 1132 on Sierra Leone "requests all those concerned, including ECOWAS, the United Nations and other international agencies, to establish appropriate arrangements for the provision of humanitarian assistance and to endeavour to ensure that each assistance responds to local needs, and is safely delivered to, and used by, its intended recipients".

With all these and many other concerns, the committee set up by ECOWAS Five to address humanitarian assistance is based in Guinea, undertaking planning activities with no reference to all the efforts of local NGOs and other civic organisations that have been on the ground since May 25, 1997, when the international organisations left the country. Thus what we shall eventually see may be humanitarian assistance programme directed by Kabbah and his followers to the exclusion of the very poor majority, most of whom are within the country facing deteriorating humanitarian crisis.

The UN and the rest of the international community have not raised a finger against the Nigeria-led ECOMOG blockade imposed on this country for the importation of basic food items and medical facilities, contrary to UN Security Council Resolution 1132, imposing sanctions on Sierra Leone. Can the UN allow the "Old Boys Club" of Jonah and Kabbah in league with Kofi Anan to down play the welfare of the poor people of this country, if only to restore Kabbah as President? Okello sits far away in Guinea and now wants to come to Lungi to continue to dance to Kabbah's tune.

ECOMOG continues to bombard Sierra Leone and corroborate with the Kamajohs as was the case when ECOMOG facilitated Tejan Kabbah's visit to Lungi to LAUNCH a dastardly operation for the elimination of all persons working for a living in the Sierra Leone - dubbed - Operation Black December and headed by Hinga Norman. Can we therefore consider the Nigeria dominated ECOMOG to be a neutral force or part and parcel of the conflict?

All concerned must therefore have a re-think on these issues in the pursuit of a solution for lasting peace. The international community must not be fooled by the pseudo- concept of democracy in Sierra Leone, which election took place at a time when over 50% of the country was under arm struggle and therefore disenfranchised.

iii) Misunderstanding the AFRC Chairman's Statement in a BBC Interview

Ladies and gentlemen, with all these apprehensions and slow effort of ECOWAS Five to implement other elements of the Conakry Peace Plan, the Chairman of the AFRC therefore made it clear that if all the issues are to be addressed, then the deadline of April 22, 1998 might not be met for handing over. For us to meet this deadline, all concerned must work harder conscientiously.

However, to the horror of many, few days after these comments by the AFRC Chairman, other than seen them as realistic and a reschedule of the timetable to ensure that the deadline is met, Hinga Norman led series of attacks in the infamous Black December Operations. This has led to many killings on the highways and clearly orchestrated to sabotage the Conakry Peace Plan. Yet the whole world and some of you are quiet about it.

iv) Negative Publicity

While I appreciate that the sanctions are biting, I have observed over the period that many of you have been bought over at given values to remain blind about the realities. This too has delayed the implementation of the Peace Plan.

There are many good things about the AFRC that are hardly positively mentioned by some of you and the International press. These include amongst others: the removal of RUF from the bush which period brought us sigh of relief at least on the highways until Hinga Norman's Operation Black December; the continuous provision of basic necessities like fuel, rice, electricity, until recently, when the sanctions have bitten harder; reopening schools even in Freetown except for the orchestrated threats from ECOMOG which have hampered schooling further. Mind you, ladies and gentlemen, the children of those politicians who are misdirecting you are in educational institutions sponsored by UNDP in Conakry, while others are elsewhere in Africa, Europe and the United States.

I am not to state however, that everything is perfect about the AFRC, but you must report objectively on the peace process if we are to attain lasting peace in the shortest possible time.

v) Foreign Mercenaries

We are reliably informed that some foreigners have teamed up with Alhaji Kabbah to hire mercenaries in return for diamonds from the Kono and Tongo areas. Arms and ammunition have already been shipped but the team is having problems as to where to dock the arms and ammunition.

vi) Attempt to keep a wedge within the AFRC

Evidence exists that Alhaji Kabbah and his agents have made several attempts to split the AFRC through, initially, the RUF and later on, the other ranks of the Sierra Leone Army. We are happy to note that these attempts failed. However, this in itself cannot augur well for the Peace Plan.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

Notwithstanding the above problems that have contributed to the delay, the AFRC Government is still committed to the Peaceful and successful implementation of the Conakry Peace Plan within the stipulated time frame and to ensure that power is handed over back to ousted President Kabbah by April 22, 1998.

To this end, the following measures are suggested to ECOWAS through the ECOWAS Committee of Five.

Immediate Cessation of hostilities, particularly an end to the pro-Kabbah Operation Black December.

Re-location of UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy Francis Okello in Freetown from Conakry and not to be-located in Lungi

ECOWAS summit to immediately convene and consider the concern of AFRC on the release of Corporal Foday Sankoh; non-disarmament of the Sierra Leone Army but rather a programme of restructuring the Army be developed.

Review the dominant role of Nigerian contingent in the ECOMOG and their negative activities and impact on the Peace Plan as contained in this briefing;

In order to ensure that the key elements of humanitarian assistance; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and the formation of a broad based government, as contained in the Conakry Peace Plan, are adequately and professionally addressed, reflecting local needs for lasting peace, immediate action must be initiated by ECOWAS Committee of Five for the formation of the following committees, each to be chaired by a member of the ECOWAS Committee of Five:

Committee on disarmament, demobilization and re-integration of ex-combatants;

Committee on the coordination of humanitarian assistance;

Committee on the formation of the broad based government;

Committee for the coordination of all the above activities.

Membership on these Committees must reflect the political and technical requirements. These Committees must work out the broad modalities that will ensure a peaceful and smooth transfer of power. It is hoped that previous efforts by the ECOWAS Committee of Five, which were designed without AFRC inputs, be revisited to reflect the concerns raised herein.

To overcome the loss of time, membership must not overlap so as to work concurrently in order to meet the deadline of April 22, 1998. It is hoped that the UN and the rest of the international community will give every support in terms of resources for the effective and quick implementation of the Conakry Peace Plan.

In conclusion, the AFRC wishes to welcome the appointment of the new ECOMOG Field Commander General Timothy Chalpidi, whom we hope, will thoroughly study the situation on the ground and assist us in the search and consolidation of lasting peace not only in Sierra Leone but in the sub-region.

We strongly believe that the UN Secretary-General will include the concerns raised herein in his next regular report to be submitted to the UN Security Council as required by Article 16 of the UN Security Council Resolution 1132 on Sierra Leone.

I THANK YOU ALL
COL. A. K. SESAY
SECRETARY-GENERAL, AFRC.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
9 February 1998

CIVILIANS TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE NIGERIAN FORCES
(Eyewitness Reports)

1252 hours Monday 9th February, 1998

The fighting that is going on between the AFRC/RUF Forces and the Nigerian/Kamajors Forces at Jui have taken a different turn.

Despite the restraint on the civilian population by His Excellency Lieutenant- Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma, the youths have taken up arms against the maurading forces of the Nigerian contingent at Jui.

The Nigerian forces resumed hostilities with the AFRC/RUF Forces last Thursday, contravening the Conakry Peace Communique signed last October, 1997.

According to the Nigerian Task Force Commander at Lungi, Maxwell Khobe, the Nigerian forces are bent on deploying their forces in different parts of Sierra Leone without the consent of the AFRC/RUF Government.

"This latest move by Nigeria is totally uncalled for as they (the Nigerians) are still yet to prepare a concept of operation with regards the implementation of the Conakry Peace Communique," said a Western diplomat.

The Nigerians have resumed hostilities as part of their efforts to forcefully reinstate the ousted government of Ex-President Tejan Kabba.

Eyewitness reports state that the Nigerians have been using heavy artillery and mortar, bombing indiscriminately at civilian positions. A total of approximately two hundred (200) civilians have been killed by the invading Nigerian forces.

The civilians in turn have mobilised themselves in readiness to prevent the Nigerians from making any advances into the Capital City. The civilians, most of whom are youths have organised themselves into units to defend, what one of them refers to as, "the territorial sovereignty of Sierra Leone."

According to eyewitness reports, most of the civilians who have taken up arms against the Nigerians are youths residing within the Calaba Town and Wellington areas.

Reports also state that these areas have been badly affected by the indiscriminate bombing done by the Nigerians. An approximate number of fifty (50) civilians, including women and children, were killed by a long-range missile which was fired from Lungi across the Sierra Leone River onto Calaba Town.

Meanwhile, reports from the warfront states that the forces of the AFRC/RUF are in full control of Wellington, Waterloo and the Benguema Training Barracks, contrary to recent claims made by the Nigerian Task Force Commander based at Lungi in a recent BBC interview.

THE ROAD TO CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND A SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN SIERRA LEONE - AS PERCEIVED BY CIVIC EDUCATORS

INTRODUCTION

Since Sierra Leone gained Independence in 1961 - one given to them much to the disapproval of the Late Siaka P. Stevens who had sensed that the Mendes will pioneer an unending tribal in Sierra Leone if elections were not held before independence - all her problems have largely been unsettled. Infact it has become so complex, beyond the common understanding of the average Sierra Leonean.

What is wrong with Sierra Leone? Why is it that the triumphs of the "democracy" ushered in by Dr. James Jonah resulted not in Peace, Respect for Human Rights and the Rule of Law, increased reconciliation and an improved well-being of the citizenry.

Before the February 1996 Elections, Sierra Leoneans had faith in democracy. Their faith in democracy was first demonstrated when Sierra Leoneans voted unanimously for multi-party system of governance in the 1990 referendum. Sierra Leoneans believe that in a democratic society, the standard of living would rise; that there will be a steady growth in human resource development and other development programmes. Above all they believed that the RUF rebellion will end thereby ushering a steady progress towards a better social order.

THE LAST ELECTIONS

The Elections of 1996 which marked the end of the NPRC military rule were held **AMIDST FEARS AND MUCH AMBIGUITIES**. The vast majority of Sierra Leoneans, being ignorant of their civic duties, obligations and responsibilities, and also having no knowledge whatsoever about their political rights and duties were cajoled by corrupt politicians to vote for **ELECTIONS BEFORE PEACE** against the sensible and passionate cry for **PEACE BEFORE ELECTIONS**.

Thus, less than half the total number of registered votes went ahead to vote in the elections conducted by James Jonah, whilst the vast majority of people prayed for peace.

The elections and the fifteen (15) months span of the "elected government" failed to bring in the much needed peace and to actualise the faith Sierra Leoneans have in democracy.

Events during the era of the SLPP government, headed by Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabba, created disillusionment and disinterestedness for democracy and even constitutional order. It failed to bring in peace and the war and its effects are biting hard on the Sierra Leone population. Other reasons being, the apparent collapse of the Abidjan Peace Accord and Ex-President Kabba's callousness, indecisiveness and blatant violations of the 1991 Constitution.

However, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR THAT HAS LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND DEMOCRACY IN SIERRA LEONE IS THAT THE ELECTIONS ORGANISED AND IMPLEMENTED BY JAMES JONAH WERE DONE AGAINST THE WILL OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF SIERRA LEONEANS, especially those behind the fighting zones. Thus, James Jonah's democracy was built on a very fragile foundation. The vast majority of the citizenry know very little about their civic duties, obligations and responsibilities, political duties and rights, their legal duties and rights. THE CITIZENRY OF THIS COUNTRY WERE NOT THOROUGHLY GROOMED TO BE AN INFORMED SOCIETY THAT WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW, TO ANALYSE AND TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF MODERN-DAY POLITICS, AND ARE UNABLE TO RESPOND APPROXIMATELY AND ACCORDINGLY TO POLITICAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES OF THE DAY. JAMES JONAH DID EVERYTHING IN A RUSH.

THE EVENTS OF MAY 25, 1997

The events of May 25th 1997, brought to an end the continuing nonsense that Ex-President Kabba, his ministers and members of Parliament were up to: THEY MANIPULATED THE IGNORANCE OF THE PEOPLE TO THE BEST OF THEIR ADVANTAGE.

Above all, the May 25th event brought the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) out of the bush and signalled the final chapter in the history of war in Sierra Leone. However, this signal was unheeded. Ex-President Kabba and his cohorts, in conspiracy with a few intellectuals and academic professors has launched an all out propaganda war against Sierra Leone and Sierra Leoneans.

Much to the disappointment of Sierra Leoneans, the International Community have been swayed by the negative propaganda made by Tejan Kabba and his group of unpatriotic Sierra Leoneans and have supported the Nigerian-led ECOMOG/ECOWAS sanction and bombardment much to the detriment of the ordinary Sierra Leoneans. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE INFLICTED MORE PAIN ON THE AVERAGE SIERRA LEONEAN THAN THE SIX-YEARS OF REBEL WAR EVER DID!

Nevertheless the events of May 25 has not watered down the spirit Sierra Leoneans have for democracy nor has the continued sanctions and bombardments inflicted on the average Sierra Leoneans by the Nigerian-led ECOMOG has kindled the hope for an imminent lasting peace.

Most Sierra Leoneans feel bitter that the International Community and the United Nations do not see reason to work with the AFRC to consolidate the peace ushered in by both the AFRC and RUF on May 25, 1997. Having gone through the rigours and pains of war, Sierra Leoneans

are tired of war and are yearning for peace. And hopes for the dire needed peace have been cushioned by the Conakry Peace Communiqué.

But the FACTS REMAINS THAT SIERRA LEONEANS HAVE THE ABILITY TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES AND TAKE DECISIONS AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE BINTUMANI I AND II CONFERENCES RESPECTIVELY.

THE CONAKRY COMMUNIQUE

For all its intents and purposes, the implementation of the Conakry Communiqué has clearly revealed that the Communiqué has clearly revealed that the Communiqué itself cannot bring lasting peace in Sierra Leone.

Civic Educators take cognisance of the following points highlighted in the Communiqué:

1. The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants into normal society.
2. The Supply and Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance
3. The Formation of a Broad-based Government.

These points are the key elements for the institution of lasting peace and constitutional order in Sierra Leone. What exactly will bring sustainable democracy is a conscious and deliberate civic development education campaign. Although this remains in oblivion, it should be thoroughly considered by the United Nations and other parties interested in finding a permanent solution to the problems in Sierra Leone.

The issue of disarmament and demobilisation is of so much importance that there should be no dilly-dallying over its implementation. At this point, the release of Corporal Foday S. Sankoh to participate in the process becomes vital.

Thus, it has become incumbent on the United Nations to organise a trio-meeting of the so-called stakeholders in the Sierra Leone conflict. If the United Nations really intends to help Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leoneans, then this is the most positive approach it could make.

The meeting between the three stakeholders should be followed by a Peoples' Consultative Conference. This Conference should be organised and co-ordinated by the United Nations in collaboration with civic education groups. The purpose of the conference is to ascertain the popular opinion of Sierra Leoneans with regards the current impasse and to establish ways of progressing with the institution of peace and Constitutional Order in Sierra Leone.

The International Community needs to know that the problem in Sierra Leone today is a make-up of corrupt politicians - a sect Tejan-Kabba and James Jonah belongs to - therefore returning power to these corrupt politicians will not bring peace and sustainable democracy in Sierra Leone. It will only prolong social disorder and multiply the sufferings of the ordinary Sierra Leoneans.

It is against this background that the view to ban all old politicians and political parties has been borne. Infact, many are of the opinion that the NPRC and James Jonah should have taken this action before the 1996 elections. But the ineptness of James Jonah prevented it from happening.

Banning all politicians and political parties will create the way for young adults to assume the responsibilities of the state and put an end to old political rivalries.

At this point, the attention of the International Community should be drawn to the word CAUTION. The International Community should take time in outlining the modalities for lasting peace, Constitutional Order and sustainable democracy in Sierra Leone. The most important thing that is needed now is the cessation of hostilities between the Nigerian-led ECOMOG troops in Sierra Leone and forces of the AFRC/RUF. The Nigerians must also stop to train and arm the Kamajors. Infact the ECOMOG contingent should be withdrawn from Sierra Leone immediately.

Furthermore the supply and distribution of humanitarian assistance should commence. Also the importation of essential foodstuffs and medicines should be allowed.

Finally, the road to Constitutional Order and sustainable democracy seem very long and tiring, but it is not so. All that is needed is an informed society. Therefore, the Civic Development Education Campaign must be funded by the United Nations. And a governmental policy calling on all NGOs operating in Sierra Leone to institute a Civic Education Programme or an adult literacy programme as part of their operations.

The International Community should not do things in a rush. Caution should be employed in helping Sierra Leone find a permanent solution to her problems.

MY ORDEAL AT THE NIGERIAN/AFRC WAR FRONT IN THE EAST END OF FREETOWN

An eyewitness account from Joseph Goba, Peacock Farm, Wellington

I live at Wellington Field - a sub-urban area in Freetown. On Thursday night we heard heavy firing apparently between the Nigerians and the Revolutionary United Front soldiers who were manning two separate checkpoints around the Jui and Hastings areas, further east towards Waterloo.

These gunshots were soon followed by heavy bombardments. But as it was dark, it was difficult to say where it was coming from. This continued the whole night until morning. In the morning, one could easily know that the bombardments were coming from Lungi. It intensified in the morning of Friday 6th February, 1998. I could not bear staying indoors, so I ventured to leave the house. At this point, it was difficult to know who were in charge of our area.

I soon learnt from the Creole they spoke that they were the AFRC Army. I left and moved swiftly to the main road and came to Philip Street towards the new Freetown/Waterloo Road. The AFRC Army was quickly over-ran by the Nigerians and the entire place up to the SLPMB was taken over. However, the Nigerian shelling from Lungi onto the Hills in Kumtolo, a slum

settlement continued. Many houses could be seen ablaze with women, children and the old crying. At Philip Street, firing came closer making the place unsafe so I together with those that had harboured me had to leave. As we stepped outside, we saw a young man in his early thirties with an eighty-year old woman on his back. He was crying saying that the Nigerian bombardment at Kumtolo killed his father, mother, four brothers and one sister. The streets were quietly tense and fearful. We could not help. The battle front was coming closer and closer. The young man and many others carrying few bags on their heads trekked on. I came across a woman with four children all below eight years, two even below four. I helped her with one but could not help any further as the firing intensified. The Nigerians were now at Congo-Water, three miles off their base at Jui.

I hid behind the Rokupa Clinic and listened to a radio broadcast by the Radio Station FM98.1 where the Nigerian General Khobe who said that he was now declaring full-scale war. I heard the AFRC arguing amongst themselves about giving command. The command was weak, but the fighting men seemed determined. Each time the firing died down one could peacefully hop from one point to another with no harassment from either the Nigerians and the AFRC men, the fighting intensified so we needed to move out to Portee Junction and hid in a house by the mosque. I heard that several people from this area died in the crossfire. This was now the third day, Sunday. We only have lived on garri. One cannot think about cooking. There was nobody openly seen in the streets except soldiers. From our hiding place, we could see far and wide. A red cross van came to collect the wounded and the many civilians that had been killed by the bombardment from Lungi and the crossfire. I cannot remember how many, but I had counted up to twenty one before I realised that if I am not careful, I could easily be picked up to add to the count. They were mostly civilians with only two (2) soldiers. At Portee, AFRC was still in control. The Nigerians were now at Congo Water. So Rokupa in between became the battleground.

Both sides can fight, but the AFRC lacked strong command at the battlefield. The Nigerians seemed scared. They have not made any gains for forty-eight hours and are still at Congo Water. They ventured at one time to come to Rokupa. I overheard as AFRC Captain Akim said that the Nigerians are in an unfinished building. He took his troops there. He lost a Lieutenant Turay and the Nigerians were reported to have lost four (4) men. Firing was serious. Nobody can collect the bodies. Soon after this, I overheard four blasts at Portee Junction itself. This came from Lungi in succession. But alas, to my surprise and contrary to the surgical operation of precision of the Nigerians as had been described by President Kabba, the two blasts were fifty yards away from where a tank had been standing with over thirty (30) AFRC soldiers. This time, I started crying. A black smoke came from the direction of the house of a Mrs. Jalloh where an erudite scholar who had been lecturing at the University, a Mr. Sandy lives. I cannot believe my eyes to see the death of this man. However, as the smoke cleared, I observed that it was the next house to Mrs. Jalloh's that was ablaze. I grew scared and left.

I saw the bodies of two women and a child near the two-storey building at 160 Bai Bureh Road on the Freetown/Waterloo Highway and the house was still burning. A blind old man at another back house told me he heard screaming, but the sound had stopped. He said the house had over fifteen people in it, but that he had heard no sound coming from the house. I came to Low-Cost Housing, finding my way. But I did not need to waste time there.

I jumped over many bodies. The Alfa Jet had just dropped a bomb about 300 yards away from the Action Contre de la Faim (AICF) Makeshift Clinic for Under Fives. Some had exploded and others did not. I saw a crowd gathered at a point surrounding eleven (11) civilian bodies, mostly children.

The story was that one of the dead children took the bomb thinking that it was a ball and that is exploded and killed eleven (11) people. Meanwhile, a Mr. Duramany Sillah, an AICF Health worker was busy transporting other victims of the Alfa Jet bomb to the Connaught Hospital. He told me that he had taken six nursing mothers and was now taking Fatmata Koroma and Adamsay Sesay who all got fragments from the blast together with their infant children. As I walked around, many unexploded bombs still lied around the buildings of the Low Cost Housing. But Nigerian bombardments from Lungi now engulf the City.

As I came down to the City Centre, I heard loud music in the streets and passers-by doing their normal business with no knowledge of what has befallen their fellow Sierra Leoneans in the far east of Freetown.

I am traumatised and hope that the BBC will read this note with the hope that a peaceful solution is sought before the fighting further advances as the Nigerians are still eight miles away from the City Centre.

**BIG SPLIT WITHIN THE NIGERIAN CAMP AT JUI
ANOTHER BAHAFRAN WAR IN SIERRA LEONE**
by Julius Momoh

Reports from within Jui, the Nigerian stronghold fifteen (15) miles off the City of Freetown, states that there is great trouble amongst the Nigerian contingent who have been attacking the forces of the AFRC/RUF in the past four days.

According to eyewitness reports, there is a great difference in opinion with regards the role the Nigerian soldiers are playing in the current political impasse in Sierra Leone. It will be recalled that the Nigerian soldiers have taken a lead role to reverse the May 25th Revolution which ousted the government of Alhaji Ahmed Tejan-Kabba.

Four days ago, Maxwell Khobe, a Nigerian Task Force Commander based at Lungi, announced that his forces had declared war against the AFRC Government and that the Nigerian troops were going to be deployed by force in strategic positions in the city, especially the seaport.

The report further states that all junior officers who are from the south of Nigeria have vehemently refused orders to advance against the forces of the AFRC/RUF alliance in protest against the continued killing of their kinsmen by the heavy firepower of the AFRC/RUF Forces.

Other reports states that most of the senior commanders who are Hausas have refused to go to the Battlefield in the fight against the AFRC/RUF Forces. "They have also refused to send their brothers from the North to the frontline; all they do is eat, drink, smoke marijuana and snort

cocaine whilst we the Igbos, Yorubas and other tribes from the south are sent to the frontline to die," snorted a Lance-Corporal who pleaded not to be identified.

The eyewitness further opined that the tension amongst the Nigerian soldiers at Jui is grave; "..... it seems as if these guys want to fight another Bahafran War in Sierra Leone."

Several Nigerian officers have openly opposed the intentions of General Sani Abacha in Sierra Leone. They say that General Abacha should concern himself with the numerous domestic problems facing him and to hands off the Sierra Leone crisis. They have also called on their Commanders to inform the Nigerian Defence Headquarters that they want to return home.

MUTINY WITHIN THE NIGERIAN CAMP AT JUI

According to intelligence reports gathered from civilians fleeing from Jui, it has been reliably learnt and gathered that the Nigerian soldiers hailing from the South, believed to be Chief Abiola's tribesmen are refusing to go to the battlefield to fight against the Government Forces of Sierra Leone.

This is due to the fact that the soldiers believe that Abacha's regime is using them as baits and they have also confirmed that Abacha's motive is to reduce Nigerian soldiers hailing from the North just to accomplish his devilish political ambitions.

The Kamajors have started forcing the Nigerians to go to the battlefield or face the death penalty by firing squad.

According to the fleeing civilians, the Kamajors say that the Nigerian Brigade Commander at Jui has given military orders to the Kamajorts to deal with any Nigerian soldier who fails to comply with them.

Due to this, the Nigerian soldiers from the south, mainly the Igbos and Yorubas have started organising themselves into groups to resist the Kamajors and their superior officers. This has started some slight mutinous activities within the camp at Jui.

KAMAJORS AND NIGERIANS FIGHT AT LUNGI

1430 hours Monday 9th February 1998

Sporadic gunfire was heard across Lungi yesterday. According to competent sources, the Kamajors and Nigerian soldiers at Lungi were involved in a brawl and the situation got out of control.

A trader, Alimamy Sesay, who travelled from Kasierra Village, via Lungi Wharf to Freetown in a "PAM-PAM" boat (local boat) has stated that fighting is presently still going on at the Tagrin and Mahera area in Lungi.

It could be recalled that following the May 25th coup d'etat, the Nigerian soldiers in Sierra Leone entered into an unholy alliance with the Kamajors (a tribal faction) in a bid to reverse the May 25th event.

The Nigerians have been training and arming Kamajors to fight the Forces of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front.

Now it seems as if the table has turned. The Kamajors are now fighting the Nigerians. According to Alimamy Sesay, the boat in which he was travelling stopped for a while at the Mahera Wharf, in the Lungi area, where it collected some women and children fleeing from the fight.

Mr. Alimamy Sesay stated that women informed them in tears, that heavy fighting was going on between the Kamajors and the Nigerians.

According to the woman, the dispute started over the sharing of the food ration and the deployment of fighters to Jui where the Nigerian/Kamajors are fighting the Forces of the AFRC/RUF. "Dis feht don mona we di pipul dem," lamented the women, meaning that the fight is seriously affecting the civilian populace.

Other unconfirmed reports state that the former Vice President in Ex- President Kabba's government, Dr. Albert Joe Demby, who has been critical of the role the Nigerians are playing, was arrested, tortured, maimed and eventually killed by Nigerian soldiers when he expressed qualms over the refusal of the Nigerians to go to the battlefield at Jui.

The unconfirmed reports further state that Dr. Joe Demby was overheard saying, "We have paid you people a lot of money and yet you are still refusing to fight."

This unconfirmed reports asserts that thousands of people, mostly women and children have been killed in the recent clashes.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
Press Release
10 February 1998

**FREETOWNIANS ARE DYING!!!! ATROCITIES CAUSED
BY NIGERIAN SOLDIERS AND KAMAJORS**

It is reliably confirmed that the Nigerian soldiers and Kamajors have launched an all out offensive against the Military Rulers of Sierra Leone, but this time, the all out offensive is not on the Army, but on the poor and innocent people of Sierra Leone.

It is very much confirmed that, the Kamajors and the Nigerian soldiers are launching heavy bombardment on civilian targets especially on the eastern part of the city, Freetown. These bombs, mortar and anti-aircraft (AA) gunfire is coming from the Gloucester, Leicester and Fourah Bay College areas where they want to create a hideout.

The Kennedy Street Mosque at Fourah Bay has been totally destroyed by the heavy bombardments coming from the Fourah Bay College end. Another bomb dropped at Dan Street, killing four civilians instantly, including a four- months old baby and wounding scores of others. People at Kissy Shell, Fourah Bay and Kissy Road area have abandoned their homes with bundles on their heads heading towards the western part of the city. Some parents have lost their children and some children have lost their parents and a lot of people are homeless, especially those residing in the eastern parts of the City.

The Alfa Jet also has dropped bombs at around Mountain Cut, Foulah Town area which have killed a lot of civilians. Today, the Nigerians and Kamajors have killed over one thousand, five hundred (1,500) people.

Also at 23 Ogoo Lane, Brookfields a Mr. Kargbo, part-time worker at PLAN International; Simbo Farmer and a four-year old nephew of Mr. Kargbo died instantly from shelling activities from the hillsides. Five people were very seriously injured in that they have lost limbs and ended up being very badly deformed. Other people sustained mild injuries from the shrapnels.

CITIZENS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE NIGERIAN-LED AGGRESSION!!!

FREETOWN - Monday 9th February 1998

Reports from the Eastend and Central parts of Freetown state that tens of thousands of citizens have taken to the streets in protest against the Nigerian-led ECOMOG aggression against the poor and innocent people of Sierra Leone.

The citizens, all dressed in white, could be seen thronging the streets of Freetown with banners and posters demanding for PEACE and the immediate cessation of hostilities between the Nigerians/Kamajor forces and the Forces of the AFRC/RUF.

Some banners also called for the immediate withdrawal of Nigerian troops in Sierra Leone and the release of Corporal Foday S. Sankoh from detention in Nigeria. The citizens march through the streets of Freetown solemnly lamenting for the five thousand innocent souls, including women and children, that have died as a result of the recent, air and land bombardments being orchestrated by the Nigerian- led ECOMOG fully supported by the Kamajors (a tribal faction).

Eyewitness reports confirm that the effigies of both General Sani Abacha, Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General were burnt in front of the Cotton Tree.

The reports also states that the Nigerian Flag was also burnt to ashes as a sign of the citizenry's total disapproval of the atrocities that are being committed by the Nigerians in Sierra Leone.

The eyewitness further states that the throng had wanted to burn the flag of the United Nations, but the co-ordinator of the rally, Mr. Mustapha Bai Tejan restrained them from doing so, saying, "We should not allow the ineptness and plain incompetence of Kofi Annan in handling the Sierra Leone crisis to destroy our relationship with the United Nations.

MAKENI - Monday 9th February 1998

There has also been a rally at the Makeni in protest against the indiscriminate and rampant bombing of Sierra Leone by Nigeria/Kamajor forces.

The people of Makeni marched through the main streets in the township, with banners and placards demanding for peace and fresh elections.

According to Abibu K. Kalokoh, Sierra Leoneans are tired of war and are in dire need of peace.

KENEMA - Monday 9th February 1998

Residents of Kenema township took to the street this morning to demonstrate against the continued Nigerian aggression on innocent citizens in the city and to denounce claims made over the BBC yesterday, that Kenema District and some other parts in the South-East of Sierra Leone are under the control of the Kamajors.

The residents, mostly women, children and youths, sung songs in Mende calling on their Kamajor brothers to stop fighting for a political party that has done then no good and to see reason to work with the AFRC/RUF in order to consolidate the peace ushered in by the May 25th event.

BO - Monday 9th February 1998

The people of Bo have also taken to the streets in protest about the illegal occupation of the Lungi Airport by Nigerian ECOMOG soldiers; the continued training and arming of Kamajor militia men to deteriorate the already worsening social order, the Nigerian aggression against innocent citizens in the Capital City, Freetown, and the worsening humanitarian situation in the country.

The residents call upon the United Nations to send a Peace-Keeping Mission to save the situation from declining into another Somalia.

The President
United Nations Security Council
United Nations NEW YORK NY
10th February 1998

CURRENT SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE AND STATUS OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN SIERRA LEONE

Sir, I write to thoroughly inform you on the current situation in Sierra Leone and to let you know the present condition of Liberian refugees living in Sierra Leone.

Since the political and military events of May 25, 1997, Liberian refugees living in Sierra Leone have suffered greatly.

We have not been receiving food supplies and medical facilities. Our wives, children and family members are dying of hunger and diseases.

The resumption of hostilities between the Nigerian-led ECOMOG and the forces of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council have further worsened our condition.

Our camps have been targeted by ECOMOG Alpha Jets and some of our members who listen to the Radio FM98.1 have reliably informed us that the broadcaster had at one time stated that our camp was a base for the Revolutionary United Front. **THIS IS A BLACK LIE.** But as a result of this malicious propaganda, our camps have been bombed twice by ECOMOG Alpha Jets. The first time was on Sunday 8th Sunday 1998 and the second time was yesterday Monday 9th February 1998.

This has caused us to be displaced. Six of our members died as a result of the bombing and the remaining survivors have all fled to the bush. They cannot get out of the bush because of the insecurity of the situation caused by the continuous bombing by the ECOMOG Alpha Jets.

Sir, it is pathetic that we are to suffer in this kind of way. We were first driven away by our homes in Liberia by war and now, even where we have come to seek refuge, we are being killed again by war. We find ourselves in the middle of the muddle and at the same time express great sympathy to our Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters who have been hosts to us in time of need and difficulty.

We are firmly calling upon the International Community, especially the UNHCR, to initiate the call for an immediate cessation of hostilities between the Nigerian-led ECOMOG and the AFRC/RUF.

We as Liberians having gone through the experience of war are calling for the resumption of peaceful negotiations to settle the crisis in Sierra Leone. We know exactly that war will not solve any problem as we have learnt that lesson.

Sir, if the fighting is not brought to an immediate end, then we Liberians are sure to suffer the most. It is in this regard that we are joining our voices with other Sierra Leoneans to call for the immediate cessation of hostilities between ECOMOG and the Military Government and the prompt and immediate delivery of our humanitarian relief supplies.

Whilst trusting in your firm and decisive actions. I thank you.

Yours sincerely in Peace!!!

MOSES FREEMAN JOHNSON

STOP THE WAR!!!

The youths are all out in their thousands and have set up checkpoints all over the city at every junction of every street to identify the Kamajors!!! Youth Leader, Haroun Sankoh has however warned and cautioned the youths not to kill any captured Kamajor as has been the practice of angry youths over the past few days. Lt-Col J.P.Koroma has also issued a passionate appeal to the citizens of Freetown to restrain themselves from burning down houses owned by the aggressors as occurred in October last year. The Head Of State pleaded with the youths and women (who are now training themselves on how to fire weapons) that the AFRC wants Peace and not more war as Alhaji Kabbah is promoting. the Head Of State told the citizens that as a man of God, he was confident that God would wrought out a miracle to cleanse our land soon. He cited the infighting amongst the Nigerians and Kamajors as a classical example of a modern day biblical miracle. Lt-Colonel J.P. Koroma, once more extended a mature hand of brotherhood to the misguided Kamajors who have been fooled into believing that the International Community would rebuild the places damaged in Sierra Leone during the latest fighting. Colonel Koroma reminded the citizens that the big promise of \$259 million dollars promised to us by the International Community [????] via James Jonah in December 1995/January 1996 if we held elections was still to be seen.

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURES
DESTROYED BY KAMAJORS

1030 hours
11th February 1998

Reports monitored over the Pirate Pro-Kabba Radio Station, FM98.1-D, states that the Iranian government has vowed to rebuild all infrastructures destroyed by the Kamajors and the Nigerian-led ECOMOG intervention force in their quest to forcefully reinstate the ousted government of Ex-President Tejan-Kabba and his cohorts.

This latest report is a response to the disgruntledness expressed by residents of Regent Village, in the Penninsular Mountains, after the Kamajors assisted by the Nigerians-led intervention force set fire to the St Charles Church at Regent Village (fondly called the Canterbury of West Africa) by having their Jet Plane bomb the SS Camp of the Sierra Leone Military, missing their target and landing it on the Church, in which over two hundred (200) Kamajors and Nigerian soldiers were hiding. The Kamajors and Nigerian soldiers all perished in the flames. This happened on Sunday 9th February, 1998 at around 12 noon. The whole of Regent is now stinking with the dead bodies.

It could be recalled that the Kamajors (a tribal faction in the Sierra Leone conflict) assisted by the Nigeria-led ECOMOG intervention force at Jui, have been attacking the outskirts of the Capital City, Freetown for the past five (5) days.

The Kamajors, in their quest to enter the City, attempted to by-pass the positions held by AFRC/RUF Forces along the Freetown/Waterloo Highway by using a non-motorable road from Jui via Grafton Village onto Regent Village in the Freetown Penninsula Mountains.

The villagers of Regent were opposed to the movements made by the Kamajors and elements of the Nigerian-led ECOMOG Forces; they had wanted to use Regent Village as a base to launch an all-out attack on the Capital City, Freetown. The villagers refused to co-operate with the Kamajors and their allies. Reports states that the villagers notified the AFRC/RUF Forces manning the area about the deadly moves made by the Kamajors and their allies. Reports further states that the villagers arrested five (5) Kamajors and two Nigerian soldiers who were handed over to the AFRC/RUF Forces.

This reaction from the civilian population infuriated the Kamajors and their allies who decided to retreat. As they retreated, they set fire to key installations and infrastructures within the village.

The St. Charles Parish is the oldest stone Church in West Africa - referred to as the Canterbury of West Africa - and it has now been destroyed by the Nigerian Alfa Jet.

This brings to number twenty-five (25) historical relics and monuments that have been destroyed by the Kamajors and the Nigerian-led ECOMOG Force since hostilities resumed five (5) days ago.

The Regentonians have also vowed to rebuild their church with their own sweat, through self-help rather than accept a single cent from a terrorist country like Iran to rebuild their church.

JOE DEMBY SYMPATHISES WITH FREETONIANS

From reports monitored on Pirate Radio Station FM98.1-D, the former Vice- President Albert Joe Demby in Ex-President Tejan-Kabba's government has sympathised with the residents of Freetown assuring them that they are not better than the people of Kailahun who also lost houses, churches, lives and property during the Rebel War.

He has further emphasised that if this was done during the Rebel War, Freetonians should not be afraid to die for DEMOCRACY to prevail in Sierra Leone.

By this we take it to mean that the SLPP is willing to swim back to power in the blood of the people of Freetown. But they must also be assured by the AFRC/RUF that Freetown is not Sierra Leone and in the cause of the people, they will defend this country against further Nigerian/Kamajor thuggery.

Meanwhile the citizens of Freetown have taken up arms in the form of sticks, stones, cutlasses and boards to defend their families and homes from further brutality.

THE WAR DISPLACED WIDOWS STILL CRY OUT!!!

1856 hours

Tuesday 10th February 1998

The War Displaced Widows of Sierra Leone are hereby making a petition to the outside world for them to understand that we are dying in Freetown with our children in our hundreds.

Please United Nations Security Council come to our rescue. Do not allow the Nigerians to kill us. Over one thousand (1,000) souls have already perished. Some of us cannot even locate our children anymore. Come and save us from further destruction. Please United Nations Please. The Kamajors are our brothers and Tejan Kabba is using them to kill us. Let us sit and talk this thing over at the Peace table.

War and Military Intervention will never solve anything.

Come and stop the war in Sierra Leone.

NIGERIA GO AWAY!!! WE DO NOT NEED YOU!!! WE CAN SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS INTERNALLY!!!

This is a brother/sister problem. Go away with all your jets and heavy artillery.

We are crying out for help!!! HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP!!!!!!!

Signed:

MAMMY ISATU SHERIFF

Head of War Displaced Widows - Mile Siaka (47)

In charge of over 85 families

AMY DUMBUYA

Head of War Displaced Widows - Mile 38

In charge of over 31 families

MADAM TAIWO KAMARA

Head of War Displaced Widows - Waterloo Displaced Persons Camp
In charge of over 152 families

JULIANA SAMA FORNAH
Secretary of War Displaced Widows - Benguema Barracks
In charge of over 33 families

YEABU KARGBO
Organising Secretary of War Displaced Widows - Benguema Barracks
33 families

CHRISTIANA MATTIA
Executive Member of War Displaced Widows - Benguema Barracks
33 families

TENNEH CONTEH
Head of War Displaced Widows - Lumpar
In charge of over 90 families

MARIATU KABATU
Secretary of War Displaced Widows - Lumpar
90 families

MAANI KOROMA
Head of War Displaced Widows - Waterloo Village
In charge of over 62 families

TITY SUMA
Assistant Head of War Displaced Widows - Waterloo Village
62 families

MARIAN ADE
Acting District Co-ordinator for Koya Rural District for War Displaced Widows

HAWA KARGBO
Head of War Displaced Widows - 7th Battalion
In charge of over 22 families

LANLA CONTEH
Head of War Displaced Widows - Wilberforce Barracks
In charge of over 37 families

SAMIRA KARIM
Deputy Head of War Displaced Widows - Wilberforce Barracks