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568020

**THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

ID# 568020
PAGE NDD/K

DATE RECEIVED: 07/21/2003

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ELLEN TAUSCHER

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT THE CONFLICTS IN THE CONGO AND LIBERIA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	DAVID HOBBS	ORG	2003/07/21			
ACTION COMMENTS						
DEPARTMENT OF STATE		RAR	2003/07/21	RSI A		03/08/04
ACTION COMMENTS						
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL	CONDOLEEZZA RICE	RSI	2003/07/21		C	
ACTION COMMENTS						
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS 0
REPORT CODE:

MEDIA: FAX
USER CODE:

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

ACTION CODES:
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE
X - INTERIM REPLY

DISPOSITION CODES:
A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SPEC-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

AUG - 1 2003

Dear Ms. Tauscher:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of July 3 concerning the conflicts in Liberia and the Congo.

We share your concern about the terrible toll the conflicts are taking on Africa and the potential for damage to the interests of the United States. We have provided material and advisory assistance to build peacekeeping capacity at the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) headquarters and in ECOWAS member state militaries. This includes support for peacekeeping equipment logistics depots and contract logistics for ECOWAS peacekeepers deployed to Cote d'Ivoire and eventually Liberia. In addition, we have provided, or when conditions permit, stand ready to provide humanitarian assistance to those innocent civilians most harmed by war.

On Liberia, President Bush has called for Charles Taylor to step down. We are supporting efforts to arrange a lasting cease-fire among the parties to the conflict and the efforts of ECOWAS to lead a military mission to Liberia. The President's statement of July 25 directed the Secretary of Defense to position appropriate military capabilities to support the deployment of an ECOWAS force in Liberia, once it is generated. This clearly signals our intent to help end the tragedy in Liberia.

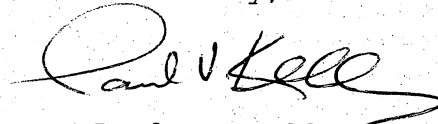
The Honorable
Ellen Tauscher,
House of Representatives.

The road to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a long and arduous one. A significant milestone was recently reached with the inauguration of a "Government of National Unity" in mid-July that has brought the leaders of principal parties to the conflict together in a transitional framework designed to lead to democratic elections in two years. The United States will support the new government as it works to bring democratic elections for the first time to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

By no means is the conflict over, however. In North and South Kivu and the Ituri region in eastern Congo there are other rebel groups that continue to perpetrate acts of ethnic violence. The deployment of the European Union-led Interim Emergency Multinational Force (IEMF) to Bunia was a critical step to begin to stabilize the situation. In anticipation of the September withdrawal of the IEMF, the United States has worked to ensure that a capable United Nations force will be in place to assume the IEMF's responsibilities and to expand the circle of stability to other areas. To this end, we have worked hard, in collaboration with other members of the UN Security Council, to provide an expanded, Chapter VII mandate and greater numbers of forces to the UN Mission in the Congo (MONUC).

Thank you for sharing with us your concerns about African conflicts. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL**

July 21, 2003

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

REMARKS: PLEASE RESPOND BY AUG 4 03

FAXED

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 568020

MEDIA: FAX, DATED JUL 03, 2003

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE HONORABLE ELLEN TAUSCHER
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT THE CONFLICTS IN THE CONGO AND LIBERIA

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNES AT 456-2590.

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT, ROOM 72, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500**

OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE

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7-23-03

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July 3, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RECEIVED
2003 JUL 22 PM 1:01
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Web Address: www.house.gov/tauscher

Dear President Bush:

As you prepare for your trip to Africa next week, I am writing to draw your attention to two disastrous conflicts where action by the United States could make a crucial difference. In both the Congo and Liberia, existing peace frameworks must be strengthened to prevent further loss of life and regional instability.

The United States does not have unlimited resources and cannot solve all of the world's problems. What it can do, however, is make more aggressive use of diplomacy and economic and political tools to solve global conflicts so that the use of military force in every case is a last resort and, if it becomes necessary, is sanctioned by the international community.

I believe the situations in the Congo and Liberia exemplify the type of threats that the United States should address and provide the right model for U.S. intervention for at least three reasons. In both cases, there is a clear objective: to alleviate large-scale suffering in a country whose dissolution would destabilize the surrounding region. Second, the United States has the ability to project force decisively. And third, the United Nations, several African nations and our major international allies are all interested in supporting and sharing the burden of an intervention to restore the peace.

With regard to the humanitarian objective, in the last decade, there has been a growing consensus that the use of force by the international community is legitimate in instances when a government severely represses the human rights of its people or where the erosion of central governmental authority creates the conditions in which innocent people are threatened. Interventions which the U.S. either lead or supported in the 1990s have established precedents for humanitarian interventions to prevent the large-scale loss of life such as ending the famine in Somalia; protecting Shia and Kurd minorities in Iraq; ending the genocide in Bosnia; and stopping ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Conversely, the absence of a response to the Rwandan genocide of 1994 has largely been seen as a missed opportunity to avert a tragedy.

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The second point has been proved amply enough over the last two years with successful military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Philippines.

With regard to allied support for intervention, the war on terrorism has generated global concern for the dangers posed by failing states and a growing appreciation by U.S. allies and new partners that only cooperative action can bring stability to some of the world's hot spots.

As you know, many governments around the world lack the legitimacy and capacity to govern. Weak states struggle against insurgents bent on their overthrow or warlords seeking to dominate ungoverned regions. Often, they are countries that have emerged from or are slipping back into conflict, or have central governments that lack control over parts of their country. In many of these countries, internal problems and competition over resources is compounded by the involvement of neighboring states who exploit the chaos by supporting rebel movements.

The tragedy of September 11 and the war on terrorism have taught us that terrorist groups and extremists make extensive use of these failed states. They often take advantage of the states' porous borders and lack of law enforcement to move drugs, weapons and money around the globe. Al-Qaeda has been known to hide in half a dozen African countries where they have trained and executed operations against American or allied targets.

I commend you for drawing an explicit link between failed states and American national interests, stating in the first chapter of your National Security Strategy that "America is now threatened less by conquering states than we are by failing ones." And in the cover letter of that document, you stress that "the events of September 11, 2001, taught us that weak states, like Afghanistan, can pose as great a danger to our national interests as strong states."

In your remarks last month to the Corporate Council on Africa, you called on President Taylor of Liberia to step down and stated that the United States would help bring peace to that country. With regard to the Congo, you called for the formation of a transition government in Congo that all parties to the conflict would support.

For those objectives to be fulfilled it is vital that the United States play a more active role in Africa than it has so far. Because of your engagement of the United Nations and regional allies, important groundwork has been laid to share the costs and risks of an intervention with many partners.

In the case of Liberia, the Secretary General of the United Nations wrote to the Security Council last week that "broader international action is urgently needed to reverse Liberia's drift toward total disintegration" and called for the creation of a "highly-trained and well-equipped multinational force, under the lead of a member state, to prevent a major humanitarian tragedy and to stabilize the situation in that country."

I am deeply concerned by the recent surge in violence against civilians in a country that has been wracked by fourteen years of conflict that killed 200,000 people in the 1990s alone. As you know, in a recent indictment by the neighboring U.N. war-crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, Taylor was also accused of crimes against humanity in connection with the civil war in that country.

As you also mentioned in your speech, the United States has a clear interest in supporting the efforts of African governments to build effective peacekeeping forces. I believe that you should offer to have the United States participate in or assist a peacekeeping force that would be authorized under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and would include African nations and others who have shown an interest in resolving the conflict.

With regard to the Congo, I believe the United States should be much more involved in conflict resolution and peacemaking. While diplomatic, logistical or economic inducements might be used, the war in the Congo, which has claimed close to five million lives in over four and a half years, can only be ended through a multinational military intervention. The deployment last month of a small European rapid reaction force to replace a previously failed attempt by 700 Uruguayan U.N. peacekeepers to stabilize the situation in eastern Congo will do little to end the violence beyond the town of Bunia, where the local U.N. mission is located.

A dozen brutal wars are taking place in eastern Congo today, and I urge you to take this opportunity to consider a multinational force that could stabilize the country, ensure that the transitional government does not collapse, prevent further violence, and help disarm the different parties.

I applaud your efforts to focus the United States' attention on a continent that we have ignored for too long and appreciate this opportunity to make some suggestions as to the effective use of U.S. power to solve global conflicts.

I wish you the best for your trip and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress