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689566

**THE WHITE HOUSE
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING
WORKSHEET**



DATE RECEIVED: 3/22/2006

CASE ID: 689566

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DIANE WATSON

COD97

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THAT THE PRESIDENT WORK WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON-SIRLEAF TO ENSURE THAT CHARLES TAYLOR IS TRANSFER TO THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE	COMPLETED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CANDI WOLFF	ORG	3/23/2006			
ACTION COMMENTS:						
✓ DEPARTMENT OF STATE		R	3/23/2006			
ACTION COMMENTS:						
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL	STEVE HADLEY	I	3/23/2006		C	
ACTION COMMENTS:						
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COMMENTS:

MEDIA: FAX

USER CODE:

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ACTION CODES:	TYPE RESPONSE:	DISPOSITION CODES:	COMPLETED DATE:
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D - DRAFT RESPONSE I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	TYPE RESPONSE = INITIALS OF SIGNER NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED	A - ANSWERED/ ACKNOWLEDGED C - CLOSED X - INTERIM REPLY	COMPLETED = DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE- OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

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**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL**

March 23, 2006

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 689566

MEDIA: FAX

DOCUMENT DATE: MARCH 14, 2006

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: DIANE WATSON
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THAT THE PRESIDENT WORK WITH PRESIDENT
JOHNSON-SIRLEAF TO ENSURE THAT CHARLES TAYLOR IS
TRANSFER TO THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

COMMENTS:

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

RETURN **ORIGINAL** CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT)
TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT, ROOM 84, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE
HOUSE, 20500

DIANE E. WATSON
CALIFORNIA



689566

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights
and International Operations

GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Energy and Resources
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy,
and Human Resources

DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL WHIP

CHAIR, Congressional Entertainment
Industries Caucus

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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(202) 225-2422 (Fax)

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ROOM 302
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010
(323) 965-1422
(323) 965-1113 (Fax)

www.house.gov/watson

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 14, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

EW/LACORR 3/A

Dear President Bush,

When President Johnson-Sirleaf visits Washington this week, I request that you work with her to ensure that Liberia has adequate support from the United States as we seek the transfer of Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. I appreciate the role the Administration has played to date in the effort to ensure Taylor is transferred to the Court's jurisdiction.

While Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has thus far refused to surrender Taylor to the Special Court, he has indicated that he would consider surrendering Taylor upon a request from a duly-elected Liberian government. Such a request should not be needed given Taylor's outstanding indictment on war crimes and crimes against humanity before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. It is imperative that you continue to send a strong message to President Obasanjo that Charles Taylor must be surrendered to the Special Court, regardless of whether there is a specific request from President Johnson-Sirleaf.

Nevertheless, support from President Johnson-Sirleaf for Taylor's transfer to the Special Court would likely have a determinative effect on Taylor's surrender. I firmly believe that Taylor's transfer would likely help to neutralize destabilizing elements in Liberia, as it would signal a serious curtailment of Taylor's influence. Delaying a request for Taylor's surrender is likely only to increase the possibility of destabilizing activities.

However, President Johnson-Sirleaf cannot be expected to shoulder alone the burden of ensuring Taylor is surrendered to face trial for his alleged crimes. Strong support of the United States government will be critical to facilitate her moving forward with a surrender request. When you meet with President Johnson-Sirleaf, please engage her on what assistance Liberia needs for her to request Taylor's surrender, particularly regarding security. I further ask that you send a clear message of support by committing the United States to provide appropriate assistance.

The United States has a unique opportunity to help ensure that justice is done and to build respect for the rule of law across West Africa. I look forward to working with you to ensure that Charles Taylor faces justice at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Sincerely,

Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

689566 AF



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 19 2006

Dear Ms. Watson:

Thank you for your letter of March 14 to the President regarding the need for former Liberian president Charles Taylor to face justice at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The White House has asked that we reply on its behalf.

The United States is very pleased with the successful transfer on March 29 of Taylor to the Special Court. This success was only possible because of the courage of Liberian President Johnson Sirleaf; support of Nigerian President Obasanjo; and hard work by the Special Court, UN Secretary-General Annan and his staff, the contributing members of the UN Mission in Liberia, and the Government of Sierra Leone.

Secretary Rice has been in frequent touch with the parties throughout this complex process to provide encouragement and U.S. diplomatic support. The United States will continue working with the Special Court and UN Security Council members to finalize arrangements so that Taylor can be transferred to the Netherlands for trial by the Special Court. The United States has been one of the strongest supporters of the Special Court and of the need to bring Taylor to justice. This transfer to the Special Court is a great success for the rule of law in the international community.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Diane E. Watson,
House of Representatives.

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ok S/P:MJames

ok DRL/PHD:PJHarvey (subs)