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662815



662815
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 19 2005

CO097

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President has asked that we respond to your letter of May 4 regarding former Liberian President Charles Taylor. We regret the delay in responding.

We share Congress' goal that Taylor appear before the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face the charges against him. We too believe that justice will not be served until he does.

We are continuing to intensify our efforts with Nigeria, Liberia, the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union, and others to effectuate Taylor's transfer to the Special Court sooner rather than later. As Chair of the African Union, Nigeria is a key leader on the continent, as well as an important friend of the United States. Working together with these entities to find ways to hold Charles Taylor accountable is a matter of the utmost importance to us. We have made clear to senior Government of Nigeria officials, including President Obasanjo and other African officials, our goal that Taylor answer to the Special Court's charges.

In the meantime, we continue to remain alert to threats to Liberia's hard-won stability and that of its neighbors, and have encouraged the Government of Nigeria to keep a close watch so that Taylor can neither subvert that stability nor return to Liberia. We are also in frequent contact at senior levels with the Governments of Nigeria and Liberia, regional leaders, and the UN on how to prevent Taylor from destabilizing Liberia and the

The Honorable

Henry J. Hyde, Chairman,

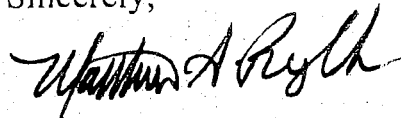
Committee on International Relations,

House of Representatives.

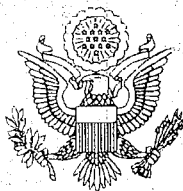
region and to ensure that he is transferred to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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The Honorable

Christopher R. Smith, Chairman,

Subcommittee on Africa, Global

Human Rights, and International Operations,

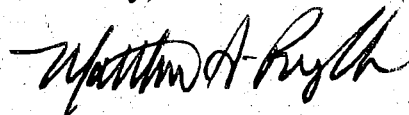
Committee on International Relations,

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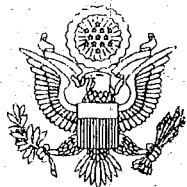
senior levels with the Governments of Nigeria and Liberia, regional leaders, and the UN on how to prevent Taylor from destabilizing Liberia and the region and to ensure that he is transferred to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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The Honorable

Edward R. Royce, Chairman,

Subcommittee on International

Terrorism and Nonproliferation,

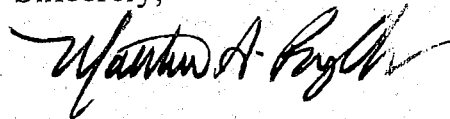
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Reynolds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Legislative Affairs (H)
Congressional Correspondence Unit

FAX



TO: Brooke Manning

FAX#: 456-2256

FROM H/CCU: A. Harris

DATE: 7/19/05

Message:
ID # 662815

- If you should have any questions please contact Cynthia Andrews, Chief, 647-1882, Roxanne Reed, Correspondence Officer, 647-2163, or Amanda Harris, Correspondence. Assistant, 647-1883. **Thank you.**