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W	12	2	2	3	10970	88522	11733	11601

Folder Title:

568009



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

JUL 25 2003

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Dear Senator Chafee:

This is in response to your June 25 letter to the President regarding recommendations for U.S. intervention in Liberia. The President has asked that the Department of State respond.

The situation in Liberia remains a major concern to the United States, and we are actively considering how we can best support international efforts to help Liberia return to peace and the rule of law. As the President recently said in Dakar, "We are in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the cease-fire and to allow for a peaceful transfer of power...The United Nations will be involved...We will participate with ECOWAS." A U.S. military team remains in Monrovia to assess how best to address Liberia's humanitarian situation.

Our first priorities in Liberia are to achieve peace, stop the bloodshed, and address humanitarian concerns. To achieve this, as the President has said, Mr. Taylor must leave Liberia. We will hold President Taylor to his repeated commitments to expeditiously do so. President Taylor also should realize that he has no future in Liberia. As the Secretary has stated, though, we do not want to see a sudden vacuum that causes even more instability in an already troubled country. Any presence of U.S. peacekeepers should coincide with his departure.

Much remains to be done in order to achieve our goals. All combatants must be disarmed, demobilized, and reintegrated into society, and the security services must be restructured and retrained. Liberia's economy and infrastructure must be rebuilt, the government must be made transparent, and the environment protected. Refugees and other displaced persons must go home to a reasonably secure environment with access to basic nutrition, sanitation, health care, and education. Timely, free and fair elections must take place and Liberians must undergo a national reconciliation process. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to prepare a solid foundation for peace, stability, and prosperity throughout the region.

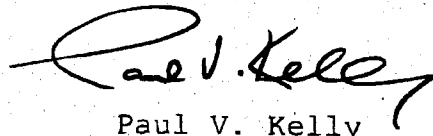
The Honorable
Lincoln Chafee,
United States Senate.

- 2 -

Thank you for your interest in promoting peace in Liberia. Walter Kansteiner, Assistant Secretary of African Affairs, would be pleased to brief you confidentially on this issue.

We hope this information will be helpful to you. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul V. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

**United States Department of State***Washington, D.C. 20520**www.state.gov*

JUL 25 2003

Dear Senator Dodd:

This is in response to your June 25 letter to the President regarding recommendations for U.S. intervention in Liberia. The President has asked that the Department of State respond.

The situation in Liberia remains a major concern to the United States, and we are actively considering how we can best support international efforts to help Liberia return to peace and the rule of law. As the President recently said in Dakar, "We are in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the cease-fire and to allow for a peaceful transfer of power...The United Nations will be involved...We will participate with ECOWAS." A U.S. military team remains in Monrovia to assess how best to address Liberia's humanitarian situation.

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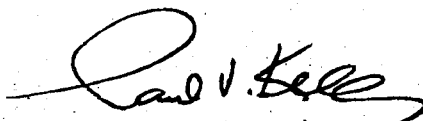
The Honorable
Christopher Dodd,
United States Senate.

- 2 -

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Sincerely,



Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

**United States Department of State***Washington, D.C. 20520**www.state.gov*

JUL 25 2003

Dear Senator Coleman:

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The situation in Liberia remains a major concern to the United States, and we are actively considering how we can best support international efforts to help Liberia return to peace and the rule of law. As the President recently said in Dakar, "We are in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the cease-fire and to allow for a peaceful transfer of power... The United Nations will be involved... We will participate with ECOWAS." A U.S. military team remains in Monrovia to assess how best to address Liberia's humanitarian situation.

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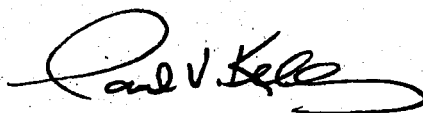
The Honorable
Norm Coleman,
United States Senate.

- 2 -

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Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

**United States Department of State***Washington, D.C. 20520**www.state.gov***JUL 25 2003**

Dear Senator Reed:

This is in response to your June 25 letter to the President regarding recommendations for U.S. intervention in Liberia. The President has asked that the Department of State respond.

The situation in Liberia remains a major concern to the United States, and we are actively considering how we can best support international efforts to help Liberia return to peace and the rule of law. As the President recently said in Dakar, "We are in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the cease-fire and to allow for a peaceful transfer of power...The United Nations will be involved...We will participate with ECOWAS." A U.S. military team remains in Monrovia to assess how best to address Liberia's humanitarian situation.

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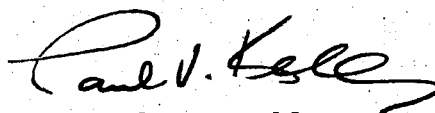
The Honorable
Jack Reed,
United States Senate.

- 2 -

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We hope this information will be helpful to you. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

RECEIVED

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

June 25, 2003

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The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to immediately address the ongoing crisis in Liberia. We believe that a U.S. response to the situation has immediate implications for US objectives of counter-terrorism, respect for human rights and peace.

Because the U.S. and Liberia have historical linkages which remain today, the United States must act. British forces have led in helping to produce an end to the internal conflict in Sierra Leone. The French are seeking to do the same in Cote d'Ivoire. This is a unique moment in which the U.S. can help lead Liberia away from further violent disintegration and help end instability throughout West Africa.

For much of the past decade, Charles Taylor has directed a web of violence and intimidation throughout the region designed for his personal profit and political aggrandizement. The Sierra Leone Special Court rightly cited his links in providing arms, financing and direction to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, whose practice of systematic amputation became symbolic of all that is wrong in West Africa today.

We urge the United States to immediately take the following actions:

First, the United States should organize a robust multinational force (MNF), building on the extraction force we have sent to the region, endorsed by the UN Security Council, to support the ceasefire and to restore order in Liberia.

Second, the United States should seek Security Council approval of Chapter VII authority to further support the Sierra Leone Special Court and its indictment of Taylor for crimes against humanity. We should use our diplomatic influence to ensure that states will deliver Taylor to answer the indictment in the event he does not do so voluntarily.

Third, we should support a UN Mission for Liberia, in consultation with ECOWAS and the International Contact Group for Liberia, to provide for an interim government and ultimately a democratic transition.

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June 25, 2003
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The United States has strong national interests in pursuing actions to bring an end to conflict and to prevent further destruction of human life in Liberia and the surrounding region. We should act in concert with our allies, with ECOWAS and with the United Nations. However, on this issue, all nations are looking to the United States for leadership. So too are the people of Liberia.

We want to assure you of strong bipartisan support for United States leadership in Liberia at this time.

Sincerely,

John Reed
Chris Smith

C. I. Chafe
Norm Coleman

THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR JACK REED
RHODE ISLAND

To: LACORR
EW (Senator)

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

To: President George Bush	From: Senator Jack Reed
FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-1806	Date: June 26, 2003
COMPANY:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER: N/A
Re: Liberia	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER: N/A

- URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Original to follow via mail.