

PREM 19/1956

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Possible visit to the UK by Pres. Stevens
and visits by his successor,
President Momoh.

SIERRA LEONE

August 1979

| Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
|----------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| 15.8.79 | | | | | | | |
| 31.3.80 | | | | | | | |
| 25.7.80 | | | | | | | |
| 29.9.80 | | | | | | | |
| 31.10.80 | | | | | | | |
| 10.11.80 | | | | | | | |
| 13.11.80 | | | | | | | |
| 17.11.80 | | | | | | | |
| 3.12.80 | | | | | | | |
| 19.2.86 | | | | | | | |
| 5.3.86 | | | | | | | |
| <p>PREM 19/1956</p> | | | | | | | |
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10 DOWNING STREET

5 March 1986

From the Private Secretary

**PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
THE PRESIDENT OF SIERRA LEONE**

The Prime Minister saw President Momoh this afternoon. The President was accompanied by his Foreign Minister and High Commissioner.

The Prime Minister extended a warm welcome to President Momoh. She had been absolutely furious about the "Silver Sea" affair. The claims made by the Captain had been totally and utterly false. She understood that the President had been kept fully informed throughout.

The Prime Minister invited President Momoh to give her an account of the situation in Sierra Leone. President Momoh said that it would be a long story. The country had been blessed with a smooth transfer of power last October. But he had to deal with a very difficult economic situation. The population was increasing rapidly. Much of the economy was in the hands of Lebanese and Indians. The country was having to import large quantities of food and was spending 40 million US dollars a year on rice alone. Smuggling remained a major problem. Indeed he would say that diamonds had been more of a curse for Sierra Leone than a boon. Able-bodied men were drawn off the land into the mining areas in search of easy money and farming suffered in consequence. In the face of these problems, he had made up his mind to reach an agreement with the IMF and hoped to do so within the next week or two. It would require courageous and painful measures, particularly in relation to subsidies on the main commodities. The one measure at which he balked was removing the subsidies on the staple food of rice. This would lead to a three-fold increase in prices.

President Momoh said that he had two problems with the IMF. First they took account only of the economic situation in a country and ignored the socio-political obligations which leaders had to their people. Secondly their teams came with fixed mandates and no latitude to negotiate. There was little point in trying to discuss problems with them. He would like to see the United Kingdom putting in a helpful word with the IMF for its friends. The Prime Minister said that we did often try to help, and would

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certainly consider whether there was any more we could do in Sierra Leone's case. But it was very important to have the support of the IMF and she thought that the President would find them reasonable and prepared to consider gradual steps towards objectives which they set. She advised him strongly to adopt the measures which they recommended. Once agreement had been reached with the IMF we would be ready to consider areas in which our co-operation with Sierra Leone could be continued and expanded.

The Prime Minister asked President Momoh about the wider situation in West Africa. President Momoh said that inevitably Nigeria was the dominating force. He had recently met President Babangida with whom he had been at cadet school and remained in touch over the years. Nigeria was a wealthy country but its economy had not been well managed. The situation in Liberia was very volatile though rather better in Guinea which seemed to be drawing closer to France again. Sierra Leone found membership of ECOWAS helpful, particularly in bringing down barriers between anglophone and francophone countries. The Prime Minister said that the United Kingdom continued to play a very active role in Africa. Our armed forces were much in demand to provide training and assistance in a number of countries, we were closely involved with developments in southern Africa and had of course made an important contribution to relieving the famine in Ethiopia and Sudan. Africa remained high on the list of priorities. President Momoh seemed gratified by this statement.

I am copying this letter to Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury) and to Martin Dinham (Overseas Development Administration).

(CHARLES POWELL)

C. R. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE

You are to see President Momoh for half an hour tomorrow evening. He will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister. He is quite new in the job, having been elected at the end of November last year. He is on an unofficial visit and will have met the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mrs. Lynda Chalker and the Chief of the Defence Staff. He will have had tea with Princess Anne.

His main preoccupations are economic. The official Sierra Leone economy is a disaster, hardly surprising when 80 percent of all imports are brought into the country illegally and 70 percent of its diamonds are smuggled out. He has an enormous task on his hands to overcome corruption and reach an agreement with the IMF. With any luck he will tell you that he will shortly announce the economic decisions which the IMF have been seeking from him. If so, you will want to congratulate him.

We cannot offer any additional aid and our present bilateral programme is fairly small, at about £2.8 million this year. But of course we also contribute substantially to European Community and World Bank aid. However, if an economic recovery programme can be agreed with the IMF, we would be willing to consider areas in which cooperation can be continued and expanded.

The other main current issue is the recent seizure in France of the "Silver Sea" ship carrying arms and equipment which appears to have been intended to support a coup in Sierra Leone. We have kept the Sierra Leone Government carefully briefed throughout the development of this affair and President Momoh told the Foreign Secretary that he accepted that we were in no way involved. But you may like to say that you were most disturbed to hear of the incident and that we will keep an eye on dissidents in the United Kingdom who might

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be plotting the overthrow of a friendly Commonwealth Government.

Finally you may like to say something to him about South Africa and the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons which is currently in the country.

I attach a card and a full set of briefs.

C.D.P.

[Handwritten signature]

(C. D. POWELL)

4 March 1986

SRWAQD

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE

- (i) Economic situation.
Need to agree a recovery programme with the IMF.
- (ii) Aid.
Cannot offer more at present. But if an economic recovery programme could be agreed with the IMF we would be willing to consider areas in which cooperation can be expanded.
- (iii) "Silver Sea" incident.
- (iv) South Africa.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 March 1986

Dear Charles,

Courtesy Call on the Prime Minister by
President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone,
1530 Hrs on 5 March 1986

I enclose a short brief for the above call. This consists of:

- Steering Brief/Points which may be raised. *FLAG A*
- Background (including Anglo/Sierra Leone relations). " *B*
- Seizure of Vessel "Silver Sea". " *C*
- Aid. " *D*
- Personality Notes. " *E*
- Programme. " *F*

The President, a bluff, genial man, says he has much enjoyed his programme so far; and he has impressed those who have met him as being genuinely concerned to improve the parlous economic situation of his country, a task which will call for courageous decisions which he has assured us he intends to take.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

PS He will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister (only).

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street



COURTESY CALL BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE
ON THE PRIME MINISTER : 1530 HRS ON 5 MARCH 1986

STEERING BRIEF/POINTS WHICH MAY BE RAISED

1. Following a State Visit to China, President Momoh is ~~stopping off~~ in London on a private visit from 2-8 March. While here, we have arranged a series of calls designed to:

- (a) give a boost to Anglo/Sierra Leone relations;
- (b) to persuade President Momoh that he must tackle Sierra Leone's severe economic problems and reach an agreement with the IMF;
- (c) to impress on him the need for British companies to be able to remit profits if they are to do business in Sierra Leone.

2. President Momoh will probably confirm that he will shortly announce the critical economic decisions the IMF have been seeking, on which the Prime Minister may wish to congratulate him and express our willingness to consider further aid if an IMF agreement is reached. He may also voice concern that Britain is losing interest in her former colonies and contrast our attitudes to those of France, Germany and the US (the Foreign Secretary, when he saw the President last night defended our record but agreed we should not take each other for granted). President Momoh may express thanks for the promptness with which we passed on information about the British skippered coaster "Silver Sea" which was alleged to have been involved in an attempt to topple his government and ask us to keep a close eye on dissidents here. If he mentions South Africa he will probably do this in low key fashion and

FVEABY(2)



emphasise his hopes for a peaceful abolition of
apartheid.

West African Department
4 March 1986



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VISIT BY PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE : 2 TO 8 MARCH

BACKGROUND

Summary

1. Sierra Leone was the first British colony in West Africa (1808). Approximately the size of Scotland, it has a population of about 3.7m, most of whom are Moslem or Animist. With a GNP of \$380 per head (1983 figures) it is officially one of the poorest countries in Africa. However, it has an enormous parallel economy which, if incorporated in the official one, would raise the GNP figure significantly. Although formally non-aligned, Sierra Leone remains essentially pro-Western.

Political

2. Sierra Leone became independent in 1961 and a Republic in 1971. The All People's Congress Party led by Siaka Stevens won an election in March 1967 but was prevented by a military intervention from taking power until April 1968. Stevens became Prime Minister, then President, and ruled until November 1985, when he was succeeded by his nominee (and the sole Presidential candidate in an October election), Force Commander Major-General Joseph Momoh.

3. Stevens is reputed to have been deeply implicated in widespread corruption which also involved members of his Government and Lebanese financiers and power-brokers. Among the latter is Jamil Said Mohamed, who financed Momoh's election. Momoh has shown some signs of a willingness to tackle financial malpractice and

/corruption



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corruption and to try to live up to election pledges of economic and social reform. But there are many difficult decisions to be taken and it is not clear whether Momoh has the strength or the political base to act meaningfully against the well-entrenched vested interests which plague Sierra Leone. The outcome of parliamentary elections scheduled for May might strengthen his hand. Unless they do, there is a danger that frustrated public expectations of reform may turn to disaffection and unrest.

Economic

4. The official economy is in a parlous state and prospects for recovery are not good unless the black market can be controlled. In 1984, 80% of all imported goods entered the country illegally and it is estimated that some 70% of Sierra Leone's diamonds are smuggled out of the country. Sierra Leone does possess considerable natural resources in agriculture, fisheries and minerals (diamonds, iron ore, bauxite, rutile). Land is abundant and rainfall reliable. But dependence for more than 35 years on diamonds as the mainstay of the economy (70% of foreign exchange earnings in 1982), massive corruption and economic mismanagement, together with the high cost of imports, particularly of fuel supplies, have inhibited development.

5. With a GNP of \$380 per capita Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in Africa and was designated a least Developed Country in 1982. It is in arrears of some \$13 million to the IMF, its last Stand-By Arrangement having broken down in 1984. In 1985 debt

/servicing



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servicing ratio rose to some 52% of foreign earnings.

Foreign Affairs

6. Although in theory non-aligned and having ties with several communist countries, (President Momoh's present visit to UK follows an official visit to China), Sierra Leone adopts a generally pro-Western attitude in foreign affairs.

7. Relations with UK have traditionally been warm and friendly. Freetown provided valuable bunkering facilities for British ships during the Falkland Islands emergency in 1982. Ex-President Stevens paid an Official visit to the UK in November 1980. He also still makes frequent private visits to the UK. Sierra Leone Ministers pay regular private and working visits. Dr Sheka Kanu, the then Foreign Minister, visited as a guest of HMG in March 1985 when he met Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Rifkind. President Momoh's first overseas visitors were members of a British Parliamentary delegation who visited Sierra Leone in November/December 1985. The last UK Minister to visit Sierra Leone was Mr Eggar who was present at President Momoh's inauguration in January.

8. Sierra Leone follows the OAU line on Southern African questions.

West African Department
4 March 1986



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VISIT TO THE UK BY PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE :
2 - 8 MARCH 1986

BRIEF NO. 2 : SEIZURE OF VESSEL "SILVER SEA"

BACKGROUND

1. On 21 February we received reports that the Panamanian-registered coaster "Silver Sea" had been arrested the previous day by French authorities after harbouring in a cove near Brest, carrying arms and rubber boats. Its British Captain had stated that these were to be used in an FCO-engineered plot to overthrow the Government of Sierra Leone. The Head of West African Department called on President Momoh, who was passing through London, to inform him in confidence of these reports and emphasise their unreliability. President Momoh said that he was grateful for the news, which he found as astonishing as we did, commenting jokingly that he had thought our relations were improving!

2. Since Mr Daly's call on the President, the Captain of the "Silver Sea" has been identified as William Sutton. Sutton and a member of his crew have referred to the involvement in the affair of John Banks, a notorious recruiter of mercenaries and confidence trickster, who has been known in the past to have set up mercenary operations and then offered, for a price, to thwart them on behalf of the target government. (We suspect that the Sierra Leoneans, despite our warnings about Banks, did actually pay him once in the past for information which turned out to be false).

/3.



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3. Newspaper reports and some statements by the French authorities about the cargo of the "Silver Sea" have been contradictory, but it now seems to be established that the ship was carrying jeep-type vehicles, rubber dinghies, radios and second-hand military uniforms, as well as two (properly licenced) weapons belonging to the crew. (The vessel reported to HM Customs at Southampton that it was leaving the UK in ballast for Gibraltar; prima facie HM Customs officers had no reason to disbelieve this, as it would have been very difficult for the ship to have loaded cargo in a UK port without their knowledge). Sutton has been charged by the French with firearms and customs offences and the rest of the twelve-man British crew released.

4. Sutton told HM Vice-Consul, who visited him in prison on 25 February, that he had been hired by two Sierra Leone nationals, Edison Gorvie (former diplomat and Secretary-General of an exiled dissident group who seem to have been inactive - at least in the UK - for the last five years) and Abdul Rahman Kamara (an ex-army officer), to sail to Yugoslavia to collect arms and then to rendezvous some 12 miles off the Moroccan coast with a mixed European and African taskforce. He was to take the force to Sierra Leone, where they would disembark to mount a coup d'etat. Kamara would command the Africans, Banks the Europeans. As a recipe for a successful coup this sounds improbable.

5. Nothing Sutton says can be trusted and other reports have been confused. Some have suggested that Liberia was the target. (The Liberian government has also been kept

/informed



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informed as far as possible - but neither government has been told that the other government is being briefed). Crew members have claimed they were recruited for a treasure hunt in the Caribbean. The truth is still obscure. President Momoh told the Foreign Secretary on 3 March that while he accepted the British Government was in no way involved he hoped we would keep a close eye on dissidents in the UK who might plot the overthrow of a friendly government. The Foreign Secretary reassured him on this point and said we would also pass on what information we could about this curious affair.

6. In October 1985 WAD passed on orally to the Sierra Leone High Commission rumours that had reached us of preparations for a sea-mounted coup attempt involving John Banks.

West African Department
4 March 1986



VISIT TO UK BY PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE: 2-8 MARCH 1986

BRIEF NO 5 : AID

POINTS TO MAKE (~~BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS~~)

1. We are providing a substantial bilateral programme (about £2.8m this financial year). We hope that this is making a useful contribution to the economic and social development in Sierra Leone but would be interested in the assessment of the Government of Sierra Leone.

2. Difficulties in maintaining successful aid programme are caused by failure to honour local cost undertakings. This is particularly so in the Certificate Training Centre at Njala where the budget support received from the Government of Sierra Leone in this year and last year is about Le 250,000 (£30,000) less than required.

3. (Defensive) At present there is little prospect of increased aid. We could not consider further capital aid without a Sierra Leonean agreement with the IMF. If an economic recovery programme can be agreed with IMF enabling the Government to become "current" with the Fund we would be willing to consider areas in which co-operation can be continued and expanded.



VISIT TO UK BY PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE: 2-8 MARCH 1986

BRIEF NO [5] AID

BACKGROUND

Bilateral Aid

The current Aid Framework provisions for Sierra Leone for the years to 1988/89 are as follows:

| | 1985/86 | 1986/87 | 1987/88 | 1988/89 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Capital Aid | 0.709m | 0.730m | 0 | 0 |
| Technical Cooperation | <u>2.115m</u> | <u>1.970m</u> | <u>1.800m</u> | <u>1.700m</u> |
| | 2.824m | 2.700m | 1.800m | 1.700m |

Capital Aid

The current programme includes:

Textbook project - an IBRD (IDA) project for which we are contributing £1.3m (plus about £300,000 TC) to provide over one million pupils and teachers books, free of charge, specially adapted to local curricula and requirements; to develop local skills in publishing and educational book development; to provide a workable distribution system for the text and teachers books so provided including the provision of a distribution manager; to provide adequate storage arrangements for books and other materials and to upgrade inspectorate supervision abilities. The current textbook project is scheduled for completion at the end of 1986 and at present there will be a two year gap in finance before the start of a possible fourth IDA education project in 1988. The Publishers Association/British Council have produced a report which will be used by the Government of Sierra Leone to seek support from IBRD for a fourth IDA project and for bridging finance from ODA for the two year gap of about \$550,000. We are studying the report and have written to the UK delegation to the IMF/IBRD asking them to ascertain from the Bank officials the likelihood or otherwise of IBRD funding for a fourth IDA project. We have not yet taken a view on further ODA support; but would need some degree of confident expectation of World Bank support for a fourth IDA project before we agreed to bridge the gap.

/King



King Tom Power Station - a £300,000 grant for the purchase of urgently required spare parts, as part of World Bank rehabilitation project. The remaining balance of £46,000 will be spent in 1986/87.

Feeder Road Project - this project, executed by a voluntary agency, is now coming to an end with the remaining unspent balance allocated for the purchase of spare parts.

From 1987/88 there will be no further capital aid.

Technical Cooperation

The current programme includes assistance to the Ministries of:

Works. A bridge and Ferry Rehabilitation Unit has been set up to which we are contributing £1m over four years. The Project Manager, Assistant, three VSOs and equipment have been provided.

Finance. Two TCOs - a Systems and Managing Training Expert and a Financial and Investment Analyst - have been provided, and Samuel Montagu have been advising on the Management of External Debt.

Agriculture. 1. Two TCOs at the Certificate Training Centre (CTC) at Njala, equipment and housing are to be provided to assist in a link with Berkshire College. The Ministry of Agriculture and National Resources (MANR) have recently failed to make available sufficient funds to meet recurrent costs. Mr Eggar raised this problem with the President during the recent visit to Sierra Leone.

2. We continue to support the Work Oxen Project, an economic assessment has just been completed and we are considering what role our next long-term TCO should undertake.

3. We are also funding a TCO Agricultural Extension Training Adviser as part of a World Bank team of eight assisting with a rationalisation of the Agricultural Sector.

/Education



Education. 1. Six category IVs and KELTS provided for Textbook, Mathematics and KELT projects administered by the British Council.

2. We are spending £771,000 this financial year on training, maintaining 68 new awards per annum and we have seven BESS supplemented staff at the University of Sierra Leone. The training programme for 1986/87 will be around £823,000, this includes an additional £54,000 from the money released as a result of our withdrawal from UNESCO.

3. Following the withdrawal of a TCO Training Adviser from Bo Paramedical School a three man team from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) recently carried out a teaching assignment at Bo.

General. Head of Mission Gift Scheme, Head of Mission Small Project Scheme and Book Presentation Programme. Support is also provided to the MRC Laboratory at Bo through an annual grant towards tropical medicine and research at MRC. We are supplying two Landrovers and one Bedford Lorry to the National Power Authority.

There are 54 volunteers working in Sierra Leone as at 31 December 1985 mainly in education. Under Joint Funding ODA pay 50 per cent of two Christian Aid projects in community health and agriculture.

Multilateral Aid

European Community

Under the Second Lomé Convention (financed by the fifth EDF), the total allocation for Sierra Leone was 48.5 mecu (£29m), of which 8.5 mecu (£5m) were to be used as special loans for risk capital projects. 21.8 mecu (£13m) had been committed to projects (the slow rate of disbursement reflects the Commission's cautious approach to Sierra Leone's current instability). A total of 12.4 mecu (£7m) has been given in the form of special loans through the European Investment Bank. Sierra Leone received 13.6 mecu (£8m) in stabex payments in respect of cocoa, coffee and palm kernel products.

2. Major projects under Lomé III include the Koinadugu agricultural project (7.5 mecu - £4.5m), buildings for Njala university college, rural water supply and the Kanbia fisheries development project.

Lome III (1986-90)

Sierra Leone's allocation under Lome II is 69 mecu (£41m). The pre-programming paper prepared by the Commission suggested that the indicative programme should concentrate on rural development, especially rice cultivation. It was discussed by the EDF Programming Committee in Brussels on 27 November 1985 and the Commission's programming mission has now visited Sierra Leone. We have yet to see a copy of the signed indicative programme.

World Bank

To date IBRD has provided Sierra Leone with four loans totalling US\$18.7m and eleven IDA credits totalling US\$110.8m including US\$21.5m in 1984 for agricultural sector support where the bulk of the ongoing programme is concentrated. The British contribution to IDA VII (1984-87) is 6.7 per cent.

Eastern and Western Africa Department/ODA

27 February 1986



MOMOH, HON MAJOR-GENERAL DR JOSEPH SAIDU, OR, OBE, DCL
PRESIDENT, since 28 November 1985

Born in 1937, Momoh joined the Royal Sierra Leone Military Force (RSLMF) as a private in 1958. Attended successively the Regular Officers Training School in Ghana; the School of Infantry at Hythe; a cadet course in Nigeria and Mons, after which, in 1962, he was commissioned. He was imprisoned briefly at the time of the mutiny in 1968 but then reinstated as Commanding Officer, First Battalion RSLMF. Became Force Commander in 1971. Appointed an MP and Minister of State by the then President Stevens in 1974.

Momoh, who is of the same (Limba) tribe as ex-President Stevens, started his political career cautiously, conscious of the risks of over-ambition. Seen as representing a balance between the two main tribal interests, he became the sole Presidential candidate for elections held in October 1985, in which he received an overwhelming popular endorsement.

Since becoming President he has launched Sierra Leone on the difficult path of economic reconstruction and has taken various measures to control Sierra Leone's endemic and crippling corruption. He must nonetheless share the blame for the widespread corruption among the senior officers of the army during his time as Force Commander even though he was not himself as corrupt as some.

Momoh was a keen athlete in his youth and still plays tennis regularly, although he has gone to fat lately. A good mixer and more conscientious than some about his social commitments. Married with one daughter.



KOROMA, HON ABDUL KARIM

Minister for Foreign Affairs since July 1985.

Born Tonkolili 25 September 1944. BA at Durham in 1967 and Diploma in Education in 1968. Took Master's Degree in Modern History at Fourah Bay College 1973. MSc in International Politics at Southampton 1976. Lecturer, Freetown Teacher's College 1973-75.

Elected to Parliament for the first time in 1977 as MP for Tonkolili North constituency (Unopposed) and appointed Minister of Education. Visited Britain as a guest of the British Council in 1978. Appointed Resident Minister, Northern Province in May 1982.

The most fervent Moslem in the Cabinet who might seek the leadership if the Temne/Moslem element gained the ascendancy. He made quite a success of the Education Ministry, dominating his civil servants and insisting on a more nationalist style of education, including the teaching of tribal languages and national song and dance.

Honorary Mayor of the City of Tuskegee, Alabama, USA. Hobbies are chess, table and lawn tennis, reading, music and swimming. Unmarried. Something of a womaniser.



SIERRA LEONE : VISIT OF PRESIDENT MOMOH

Sunday 2 March

0820 Arrive Gatwick CA 937 (China Airlines)
ex-Peking. Met by a Special Representative
of the Secretary of State (Sir John Stow).

Monday 3 March

1100 Lord Brabazon of Tara (a Special
Representative of HM The Queen) calls on
President Momoh at his hotel

1130 Chief of Defence Staff calls on President
Momoh at his hotel.

1245 Luncheon at the Savoy hosted by Mrs Lynda
for 1300 Chalker MP.

1800 Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs calls on President Momoh
at his hotel.

Tuesday 4 March

1630 Tea at Buckingham Palace with Princess Anne
(for half-an-hour).

Wednesday 5 March

1530 Courtesy call on the Prime Minister at
No 10.

Saturday 8 March

1230 to Depart Heathrow for Algeria. Seen off by a
1300 Lord Brabazon of Tara and Sir John Stow.

Attachment to Budget to Council

4/3/86



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DATE: APRIL 3, 1986

RE: BUDGET TO COUNCIL

BY: [Illegible]

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INFO SAVING LAGOS, ACCRA, DAR ES SALAAM, NAIROBI, LUSAKA, BANJUL

VISIT OF PRESIDENT MOMOH: CALL BY SECRETARY OF STATE

SUMMARY

1. MOMOH CONFIRMS HE HOPES TO ANNOUNCE ECONOMIC MEASURES SOUGHT BY IMF SOON AFTER HE RETURNS. PREDICTABLE CONTINUED INTEREST IN 'SILVER SEA' AFFAIR. COMPLAINTS THAT UK 'STANDING ALOOF' FROM AFRICA, IN CONTRAST TO FRANCE, FRG AND US. LOW-KEY COMMENTS ON SOUTH AFRICA.

DETAIL

2. I CALLED ON MOMOH FOR FORTY MINUTES AT HIS HOTEL YESTERDAY EVENING. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS WITH THE IMF AND CONFIRMED HE WOULD TAKE THE ECONOMIC DECISIONS MUSTAPHA HAD REPORTED TO JOHNSON (MY TELNO 44 NOT TO ALL) ADDING THAT SUBSIDIES ON ALL COMMODITIES EXCEPT RICE, WHICH WAS TOO SENSITIVE, WOULD BE WITHDRAWN. TO COMPENSATE SOMEWHAT FOR THE INEVITABLE HARDSHIP SALARY INCREASES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD BE NEEDED. THE PUBLIC WOULD ALSO REQUIRE EDUCATION ABOUT THESE TOUGH, LONG HAUL ECONOMIC MEASURES: HE HAD MADE A START BY TALKING TO THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, LABOUR UNIONS AND TEACHERS. HE HOPED TO ANNOUNCE THE DECISIONS, (CLASSIC REMEDIES,

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THOUGH DIFFICULT, I TOLD HIM) SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN.

3. MOMOH THEN DISCOURSED AT LENGTH ON THE 'SILVER SEA' AFFAIR. THE NAMES BANDIED ABOUT - BANKS, KAMARA, GORVEY - WERE FAMILIAR (FULLER DETAILS TO FREETOWN BY BAG). AS HIS ADMINISTRATION WAS SO NEW THIS TIMING OF AN ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW IT WAS ODD BUT HE HAD TO TAKE THE STORY SERIOUSLY. HE URGED US TO SPARE NO PAINS TO INVESTIGATE. I SAID WE WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED, BUT COULD NOT VOUCH FOR THE TRUTH OF WHAT WE MIGHT PASS ON AS THOSE INVOLVED WERE NOTORIOUS LIARS. THERE WERE MANY DISSIDENTS FROM MANY COUNTRIES IN THE UK, SOME OF WHOM EMBARRASSED US: WE WATCHED FOR BREACHES OF UK LAW. MOMOH SAID HE FULLY ACCEPTED THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH, BUT HOPED ANY PLOTTERS WOULD BE WARNED BY US TO DESIST.

4. HE THEN CHIDED US, 'SPEAKING AS A FRIEND OF LONG STANDING' FOR INSUFFICIENT INTEREST IN OUR FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES, A VIEW HE CLAIMED WAS SHARED BY THE LEADERS OF THE GAMBIA, NIGERIA, KENYA, ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA. THEY DID NOT WANT PAMPERING, BUT WE WERE STANDING ALOOF, A POSTURE WHICH COMPARED UNFAVOURABLY WITH THAT OF FRANCE, THE FRG, AND THE US (WHO WERE EVEN STANDING BY DOE (EXCLAMATION)). I TOLD HIM I APPRECIATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS: BUT NEVERTHELESS WE HAD A LARGE AID PROGRAMME, AND WERE ANXIOUS TO HELP IN OTHER WAYS, FOR EXAMPLE WITH THE IMF. ATTEMPTS AT INTERFERENCE BY US AS THE FORMER COLONIAL POWER MIGHT WELL BE RESENTED, BUT IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN AFRICA - WITNESS MOST RECENTLY OUR HELP FOR UGANDA, FIRST THROUGH MOI, AND THEN DIRECTLY WITH MUSEVENI. THERE WERE PLENTY OF OTHER EXAMPLES ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, ESPECIALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE IMF: THE GAMBIA, GHANA AND - VERY DISCREETLY - NIGERIA. HOWEVER WE AND OUR FRIENDS LIKE SIERRA LEONE - WHO HAD HELPED US OVER THE FALKLANDS - SHOULD NOT TAKE EACHOTHER FOR GRANTED.

5. ON SOUTH AFRICA MOMOH'S COMMENTS WERE MODERATE. HE FEARED A HOLOCAUST IF APARTHEID REMAINED, AND WANTED NOT CONFRONTATION BUT NEGOTIATION TO END IT. BUT BOTHA WAS NOW DIGGING HIS HEELS IN. I SAID WE AGREED, TOLD HIM OF MY USEFUL MEETINGS IN LUSAKA AND OF THE WORK OF COMGEP. WE WERE NOT STARRY-EYED, BUT

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THEIR VISIT. CONSTANT PRESSURE WAS NEEDED ON PRETORIA, WHOSE PACE OF REFORM WAS TOO SLOW.

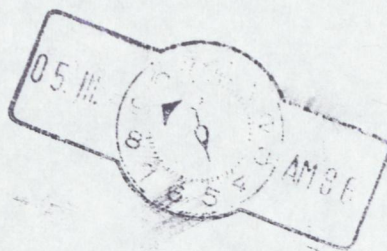
COMMENT

6. ENCOURAGING ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, IF HE IS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD: PREDICTABLE ON THE 'SILVER SEA', AND SENSIBLE ON SOUTH AFRICA .

HOWE

MCNETARY
WAD
PS
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/PUS
MR JOHNSON
MR E FERGUSSON

COPIES TO:-
DR OSBORNE ODA
MR EVERETT DTI



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FM FCO
TO PRIORITY FREETOWN
TELNO 44
OF 031700Z MARCH 86
AND TO ROUTINE UKDEL IMF/BRD

PRESIDENT MOMOH'S VISIT TO THE UK

1. AT THE LUNCH HOSTED BY MRS CHALKER TODAY, PRESIDENT MOMOH ASSURED HER THAT WHEN HE RETURNED TO FREETOWN HE WOULD ANNOUNCE THAT SIERRA LEONE WAS ABOUT TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF. HE THEN ANNOUNCED THIS DURING HIS SPEECH AT THE LUNCH.

2. DR SHAMSU MUSTAPHA (MINISTER OF STATE, FINANCE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING) TOLD JOHNSON THAT THEY HAD ALSO SIGNIFIED ACCEPTANCE OF THREE POINTS WHEN THE IMF MISSION VISITED FREETOWN:

- (I) A PHASED DEVALUATION OF THE LEONE WHICH WOULD BE POLITICALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN A SUDDEN ADJUSTMENT:
- (II) HIGHER PRODUCER PRICES WHICH COULD PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR FARMERS
- (III) LIBERALISATION OF IMPORTS

DR MUSTAPHA HOPED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED WHEN THE MISSION RETURNED TO SIERRA LEONE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. CLEARLY THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT HOPE FOR A STANDBY AGREEMENT WHICH WILL RESTORE THEIR CREDIBILITY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY AND OPEN THE DOOR TO A DONOR CONFERENCE AND DEBT RESCHEDULING. BUT JOHNSON HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT IT ALL LOOKED A LITTLE EASIER TO DR MUSTAPHA THAN IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE IN PRACTICAL TERMS.

HOWE

MONETARY
WAS
MR JOHNSON
RE: MRS CHALKER

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cc: Sir P. Craddock

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 February 1986

VISIT BY PRESIDENT MOMOH OF SIERRA LEONE

Thank you for your letter of 18 February about President Momoh's visit. The Prime Minister would be glad to see him at 1530 hours on Wednesday 5 March.

BF |

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

① RCP



Prime Minister
Agree to

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 February 1986

see the new
President of
Sierra Leone?
hear Charles, CDP
18/2
Yes
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15-30 at 573, near
1/2 low
MET 18/2

Visit by President Momoh of Sierra Leone

The new President of Sierra Leone, Joseph Momoh, will be travelling through London on 19/20 February en route to China, where he has been invited on a State Visit. On his return to London on 2 March, he will spend a few days here. The Foreign Secretary believes it would be helpful to our interests in Sierra Leone if President Momoh could be invited to pay a brief courtesy call on the Prime Minister on 4 or 5 March. The President will in any event call on the Foreign Secretary.

The Sierra Leone government are generally very helpful to us in international fora. They readily provided assistance to the Falklands Task Force in 1982, by bunkering ships and refuelling aircraft, and at the UNGA in November 1985 abstained on the Argentine resolution on the Falklands and on our amendments.

Since taking office in November 1985 President Momoh has shown that he is determined to tackle his country's economic problems. He will face considerable opposition in tackling the widespread and flagrant corruption of old-guard politicians and Lebanese traders who have hitherto controlled the economy. It is in our political and commercial interests that Momoh should succeed in turning the economy of this potentially wealthy country around. We are encouraging him to come to terms with the IMF and working hard to consolidate our traditionally leading role in Sierra Leone. Mr Eggar's attendance (representing the Prime Minister) at President Momoh's inauguration in January was part of that process. Momoh's unexpected visit to the UK now provides us with an opportunity to gain his confidence and influence him at an early stage in his Presidency.

Yours ever

Robert Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

PP

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street



London, July 1891

file

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Sierra Leone

3 December 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 25 November about the co-operation between British Caledonian and the Government of Sierra Leone. The Prime Minister has read your letter with interest.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Adam Thomson, Esq., C.B.E.

5/11

British Caledonian

British Caledonian Airways Limited
London Airport-Gatwick
Surrey England RH6 OLT

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Cables: Scotair Gatwick Telex: 87161 BCAL G

From the Chairman's office

25th November, 1980.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter dated 17th November 1980.
I enclose a copy of my letter to President Stevens and
I am also sending a copy of this to the Foreign and
Commonwealth Office and the Department of Trade.

Our Group manages two small airlines and five hotels
for various African Governments; this is part of our
overall strategy of developing our airline alongside our
tour operating and hotel group subsidiaries. Overall the
total effort is worthwhile, but it certainly presents us
with problems common to such developments in emerging
African nations.

The speed at which Africanisation is carried out is
always a problem. This is usually compounded by such things
as pressure to accept candidates who may be unsuitable, but
who are proposed by someone of influence, or by some
individuals we have trained leaving to join another enterprise,
or who have to be eased out for some misdemeanour or other.
Having to provide an acceptable international service means
that some local customs and practices have to be changed and
new standards adopted and this all takes time.

Developing tourism is yet another problem. Often the
senior people in Government know what has to be done to
attract the tourist, but the financial state of the country
does not permit it to carry out the necessary programmes.
Some places are more successful than others. The Gambia is
a good example of meaningful progress having taken place over
the past few years, but I am afraid that Sierra Leone has a
long way to go.

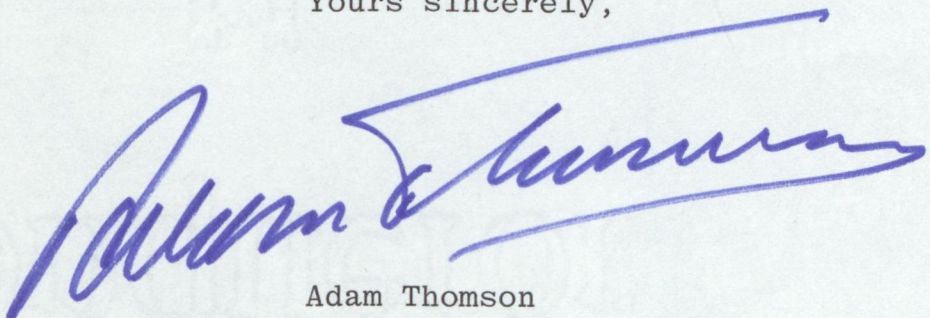
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Airline services, the development of tourism and hotels is usually of sufficient interest in the various countries to which we operate in Africa for me to be invited to meet with the Presidents and/or Senior Ministers when I visit their country. I am usually pressed for more training, faster Africanisation and to bring more tourists to the country; in turn, I am usually pressing for a better infrastructure for tourism, less unrealistic pressures, greater opportunities and to be allowed to transfer some of our money to the U.K.

You may be interested to know that after the 1980 OAU Conference, which was held at the CHM managed Bintumani Hotel in Freetown, President Stevens was complimentary about our performance. As a matter of fact, the late President Tolbert complimented us on running the Hotel Africa and Conference Centre in Liberia at last year's OAU Conference and President Kaunda publicly congratulated CHM on its performance at the Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka last year when we opened it - just in time for the Commonwealth Conference.

In spite of the many difficulties and problems, I do feel that we are making real progress in the African countries we serve and we shall certainly spare no effort to continue to develop our business there.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Thomson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Thomson

British Caledonian

British Caledonian Airways Limited
London Airport-Gatwick
Surrey England RH6 OLT

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From the Chairman's office

24th November, 1980.

His Excellency The President
Dr. Siaka Stevens,
State House,
Freetown,
Republic of Sierra Leone.

Your Excellency,

It was indeed an honour to meet with you again at 10 Downing Street earlier this month, and also at Gatwick Airport before your departure to Freetown. I was pleased to hear you say how much you had enjoyed your visit and, from the standpoint of an observer, I thought it was a great success. I, and I know many of my friends and colleagues, particularly enjoyed your speech at the Mansion House.

During your visit we discussed training for Sierra Leoneans by British Caledonian. Your Excellency expressed the view that perhaps we could have done more. My own view, expressed at our meeting, was that - while we should always strive to do better - we had made serious attempts to train as many Sierra Leoneans as possible into responsible positions.

However, at our meetings I had insufficient evidence to demonstrate this point but promised to write to you with information as soon as it had been put into a report for me from the managers responsible. These reports have now been written, and I would like to summarise them briefly as follows.

The association between Sierra Leone Airways and British Caledonian Airways has existed for many years. In 1975 the two companies commissioned Britain's Air Transport and Travel Industry Training Board to study the management organisation of SLA and to make recommendations for progress, especially regarding the training of Sierra Leone nationals into more management positions.

At that time, SLA employed a total of 269 staff, of whom twenty-four were classed as managers and senior supervisors. Nine of those positions were filled by expatriates, and fifteen by Sierra Leoneans.

.../...

The study was in line with our views that management of the company should be passed progressively from the expatriates to Sierra Leone nationals, and that British Caledonian would be responsible for training to management positions those members of the staff that showed promise. The goal of complete indigenisation is still our aim for Sierra Leone Airways, and we believe we have made good progress since the ATTITB report was issued.

We had hoped that the post of General Manager would by now have been filled by a Sierra Leonean, but the untimely death of Mr. Remi Wright while we were training him was a great sadness for us all. Since his death, no other candidate for the position has been put forward, and we are continuing to employ Mr. Denis Long as General Manager. I understand that Mr. Long is very acceptable to the Government in Sierra Leone, but we do believe it to be in the long-term interest of SLA that a General Manager - Designate be identified. B.CAL would then start to train him at Gatwick, supervise his performance as deputy to the General Manager, and provide SLA with a worthy and capable successor.

On the Flight Operations side of the company, we have successfully trained two nationals of Sierra Leone to fly the Trislanders, and a third, Mr. Spaine, will shortly complete his training. Unfortunately, one of the earlier trained pilots has left to join Air Liberia, and the other returned to Government service. We are still hopeful of finding more nationals that we can train, both at Gatwick and with specialised British flying training schools.

We have been more successful in retaining the services of those engineers who have been trained by B.CAL. Three have been trained to full competency on the Trislander fleet - Mr. A. Coker, Mr. V. Lewis-Coker and Mr. A. Bunting-Graden, while we are hopeful that they will shortly be joined by Mr. B. Shengahum. Even more satisfactory is the fact that Mr. A. Coker has now completed a final 12 month period of training at Gatwick to become a fully licensed engineer on the DC10 and to take responsibility for all the large aircraft using Lungi Airport. Mr. Bunting-Graden will shortly commence a similar training programme. In addition, Mr. N. Palmer has been a fully-licensed radio technician since 1974.

I am sure you will appreciate that this training is both very long-term and expensive - Mr. Coker's training began in 1967 and has only just been completed. Training - and retaining - is a continual part of an airline's existence and we foresee that there will be a continuing need to train the excellent nucleus of engineers working for SLA.

At the moment we are also training Mr. Stanley Palmer who is the Commercial Manager - Designate. This is an extremely important position in the company, and I understand that those working with him at Gatwick have expressed great hopes for his future with the airline.

.../...

Elsewhere at management level, progress has been slower than we would have hoped. On the finance side, four promising recruits were given the opportunity to take on added responsibilities and received initial management training. Unfortunately none of the four reached a satisfactory level, and we are looking to train more recruits.

British Caledonian, along with the management of SLA, also take full responsibility for the training of all the junior staff, who run the domestic airline, man the ticket desks, and make Lungi Airport one of the most efficient in the Continent. This training has amounted to an average of 500 man days annually in recent years.

The airline industry today is a highly technological industry, in fact it is in the forefront of modern technology and demands of its staff much greater skills than most other occupations. Those of us who have worked with Sierra Leone Airways over the years have found it a most rewarding experience to watch those that we have trained gradually taking over all the responsible positions in the airline. Equally we look forward to the occasion when every post can be filled by a Sierra Leone national, and I would like to assure you, that your goal is our goal in this respect and of our dedication towards that end.

As your Excellency will know, the Group is also responsible for the training of the staff at the Hotel Bintumani through its subsidiary company Caledonian Hotel Management. I myself have been most impressed with the speed with which Sierra Leoneans have been trained to take over many of the most responsible jobs.

Mr. Mentink, the Managing Director of our hotel subsidiary, advises me that he is very pleased at the ability and quality of the intake of new recruits - a tribute to the educational standards of Sierra Leone. Nationals are now responsible for the restaurant up to the level of Head Waiter, and are completely responsible for the banqueting staff, the housekeeping staff and the front office, while we have been very pleased with the senior accountant who has been completely trained by CHM to a very high standard in a very short time.

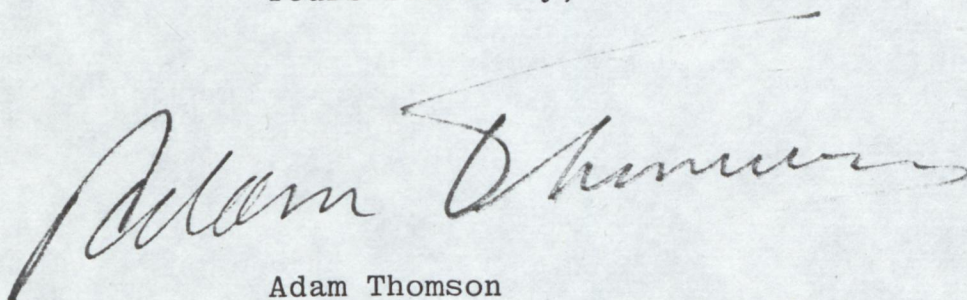
As I mentioned to you at Gatwick, we do believe that we could achieve so much more for the Government of Sierra Leone, as we strive to develop tourism through our airline, tour operating and hotel divisions, if further steps could be made to ease the path for tourists wishing to visit Sierra Leone.

Recently we have put forward suggestions that we believe could improve the occupancies at all Sierra Leone hotels to everyone's benefit by making the country more competitive with others. These suggestions included the proposition that the country waive its requirement for short-stay tourists to possess visas; not a big problem for the tourist but when he does not have to cope with it for other similar destinations, it may just be the "balancing" reason for him going to one of these; invest in more promotional activities in Europe and North America; ease the tourists' path through Immigration and Customs at the airport; encourage the local businessmen to provide more cultural and recreational facilities for the tourist; aim to

shorten the journey time between the resorts and the airport, by re-routing the Ferry services and improving their efficiency. We appreciate the problems but if they can be overcome, the initiatives we propose would certainly benefit the whole country.

Your Excellency, I would apologise for the length of this letter, but assure you it is a sincere reflection of the interest held in your country by the Caledonian Airways Group of Companies, and by myself in particular. If your office should wish to receive further details of anything mentioned in this letter, I would be very honoured to attend to its requests.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adam Thomson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Adam Thomson



cc: FCO
DOT

Sierra
Leone

RH

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 November 1980

Dear Mr. Thomson,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November describing your talks with President Stevens. I am most grateful to you for having followed up the question of training of Sierra Leoneans so effectively.

I am sure that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Trade would both be interested to have copies of your letter to President Stevens, and I should like one too.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Adam Thomson, Esq, CBE

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Please
Cross refer

14 November, 1980

Sierra Leone Airways

Further to the remarks made to the Prime Minister by President Stevens about the training of Sierra Leoneans by British Caledonian, I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the Chairman of British Caledonian together with a copy of the Prime Minister's reply.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R M J Lyne, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

DSG

FILE

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Sierra Leone

CCD/T

13 November 1980

Call by President Stevens

I enclose a copy of the record of a conversation between the Prime Minister and President Stevens of Sierra Leone on the occasion of the latter's call here on 5 November.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Stuart Hampson (Department of Trade).

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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VLS



British Caledonian

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From the Chairman's office

214 11th November, 1980.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much indeed for inviting me to attend your luncheon last Wednesday for His Excellency Dr. Siaka P. Stevens. It was a most enjoyable occasion.

Prior to lunch I brought up the subject of training Sierra Leoneans with President Stevens after he had raised this with you, but we did not really have the opportunity to discuss it then. However, I met him prior to his departure from Gatwick Airport on Sunday evening and, from the conversation, I believe he was talking about a feeling he had that we could do more training, rather than anything based on our past performance.

Apart from operating the London-Freetown scheduled service, we manage Sierra Leone Airways, which also involves running part of the Airport, and we also manage the Government owned Bintumani hotel. We do train local people for all three responsibilities; this year alone our training has ranged from the development of senior Sierra Leoneans to undertake jobs currently filled by ex-patriates, to technical training in the fields of Engineering, Traffic Handling, Reservations, Ticketing, Cabin Services and Cargo operations, plus training of different grades of hotel staff. Our policy is to replace ex-patriates with local staff as soon as we are satisfied that they are competent to take over the responsibility.

We did select and were training a local General Manager for Sierra Leone Airways; unfortunately he died last year and in spite of persistent requests to the Government for another designated candidate, no name has been given. I know that the

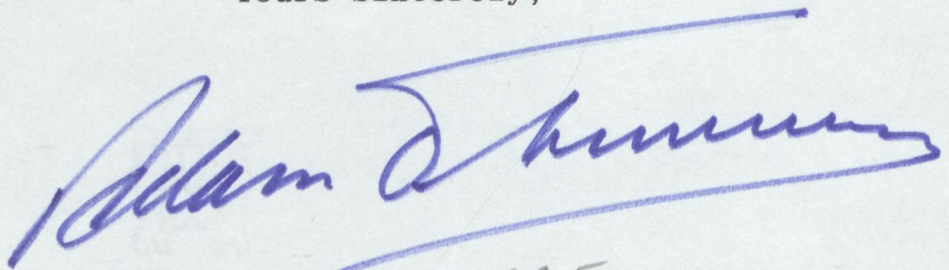
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President would like to see a qualified Sierra Leonean Pilot. He was rather surprised to hear that we had one under training and we expect him to replace one of the ex-patriates within three months and we will certainly repeat this process provided we have suitable candidates.

I would really like to see all of our responsibilities covered with the minimum number of ex-patriates and this is a genuine common interest between the President's office and the Caledonian Airways Group's involvement in Sierra Leone, but if I take too much expertise away too quickly, then I have no doubt that the backlash from the Sierra Leone Government will be loud and clear.

President Stevens appeared to be quite satisfied with the information I gave him, nevertheless, I am writing to him with appropriate details. If your office would like a copy of this, or if they would like it sent to a Government Department, I would be pleased to comply.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Thomson, CBE

Sierra Leone

cc FCO HS

cc Botswana file

10 November 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for the excellence of the ceremonial arrangements on Horseguards Parade for President Masire of Botswana and President Stevens of Sierra Leone. The performance and turnout of the Guards of Honour and the Bands were impeccable and I should be grateful if you would convey the Prime Minister's appreciation to all the officers and other ranks who took part in the parade.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Major General H.D.A. Langley, M.B.E.

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Prime Minister (2)
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. FR 19 / 80
11/XI

LONDON,

9th November, 1980.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

As I leave your great country at the end of what I consider to be a very successful visit, I wish to thank you, your government and the people of Great Britain for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded me and my entourage.

I have no doubt that this visit and the exchange of views which took place between us will go a long way in strengthening the cordial relations which have existed between the United Kingdom and Sierra Leone over the years.

I take this opportunity to extend to you, Madam Prime Minister, an invitation to visit Sierra Leone when you can find it convenient.

Yours very sincerely,

Siaka Stevens,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

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cc Master set

CALL BY PRESIDENT SIAKA STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE ON THE PRIME MINISTER
AT No. 10 DOWNING STREET AT 1200 HOURS ON 5 NOVEMBER 1980

Present:

| | |
|---|---|
| The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP | HE Dr. Siaka P. Stevens |
| The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC | Hon. Dr. Abdulai Conteh Minister of Foreign Affairs |
| Mr. Richard Luce, MP | Hon. Dr. S.S. Banya Minister of Development and Economic Planning |
| Mr. D.M. Day, CMG | Hon. Mr. S.A.J. Pratt Minister of Trade and Industry |
| Mr. M.O'D.B. Alexander | Mr. V.E. Sumner Sierra Leonean High Commission |
| Mr. A.C.D.S. MacRae | |

Welcoming President Stevens to London, the Prime Minister said that she had learned much about Africa's view of the world from President Masire's recent visit and looked forward to equally frank discussions with President Stevens. President Stevens replied that he greatly appreciated the invitation to visit Britain. He also looked forward to a frank exchange of views. He felt that for the last five years or so, the links between Sierra Leone and Britain had somehow weakened. His countrymen always hoped to have preferential shares in 'the UK Limited'. We had been together so long. Yet Sierra Leone had begun to feel rather neglected of late; they noted the fact, for instance, that no British Ministers ever visited Freetown on their West African tours. This was a good moment, then, to renew our old friendship which, he agreed, was perhaps taken rather too much for granted. He was also a little disappointed that the educational links between our two countries seemed bound to be eroded by the higher students' fees which we were demanding. This fell particularly heavily on poor countries like Sierra Leone who depended to such a high degree on the UK for training; they felt that Britain was mistaken to calculate

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everything in pounds, shillings and pence. On balance, however, he had nothing to complain about over our continuing development aid programme. He hoped that we would take more interest in other projects, including the development of tourism. Kimberlite mining was another future possibility. Here, Selection Trust having recently been bought by BP, he hoped that the Prime Minister might feel able to put in a word with the latter to persuade Selection Trust to be more active.

As to domestic policies, there were no particular problems. Sierra Leone's difficulties were mainly economic. They were particularly hard-hit by the escalation of oil prices: a large percentage of their exports had to go to meet the fuel bill. This situation coincided with a period when world prices for their main agricultural exports, such as cocoa and coffee, had gone down. They were nevertheless wondering how best to develop their agriculture; President Stevens thought that some large-scale plantations would be necessary to supplement the small producers. He mentioned the negotiations he had recently conducted with Alusuisse over a bauxite project. Unfortunately, this was hampered by inadequate transport infrastructure.

The Prime Minister raised the question of Namibia. The present phase in the negotiations was being presented in a different light by different people. Lord Carrington said that he was now a little more optimistic; it seemed likely that the Pre-Independence Meeting (PIM) might take place soon. It would be useful to discuss the procedures for the election. It would, however, be disastrous, especially for a number of poorer African countries, if the threatened UN sanctions went ahead. President Stevens said that he was also reasonably optimistic. He kept closely in touch with the Front Line States. The OAU had been bound to seize the Security Council of the Namibia problem; but perhaps this might now be carried forward until after the PIM had taken place.

The Prime Minister asked what the OAU made of the disastrous situation in Uganda. Lord Carrington added that we had said that

/ we would

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- 3 -

we would help with the forthcoming elections only on condition that the four parties could agree on the ground rules. Otherwise, the elections would be seen as no more than a device to return Obote to power. We could not be associated with elections that were evidently not free and fair. President Stevens commented that Britain should not wash its hands of Uganda: we had a special responsibility for it, not only as a Commonwealth country but also because we had been involved in the overthrow of Obote. Lord Carrington denied this absolutely. He said that we were quite as taken aback by Idi Amin Dada's coup as anyone else - and as Defence Minister at the time, he knew this to be so.

The Prime Minister asked what would be the OAU's position towards South Africa once the Namibia problem was out of the way. For ourselves, we had many vital interests in that country and considered that the way forward must be by gradual but relentless change. Lord Carrington added that he thought it important that once the Namibia problem was settled, the OAU did not merely turn all its attentions to a destructive and negative attack on South Africa. It was important to develop links between South Africa and her black neighbours in order to bring about a change peacefully. Zimbabwe was an example of what could be done. Dr. Conteh thought both sides would need to give assurances. If Zimbabwe, for instance, could say that it would not allow attacks to be mounted on South Africa from its territory, then the South Africans should in their turn give solemn undertakings not to attack Zimbabwe. Both sides must gradually allow trust to be built up between them.

The Prime Minister asked what success the OAU was having in tackling the Chad problem. President Stevens said that the recent peace-keeping meeting in Lomé had not succeeded; but at least they had managed to bring the two parties together. The next step seemed to be a further OAU conference to be held in Lagos in the next few weeks. The Prime Minister asked about Dr. Conteh's recent visit to Cuba and what he made of the Cuban military presence in Africa. Dr. Conteh said that the Cuban presence was sometimes much exaggerated

/ in the press.

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- 4 -

in the press. For instance, he had once, recently, seen a map which indicated that there were Cuban troops in Sierra Leone: but he could assure the Prime Minister that there were none! In Mali and Guinea, for example, they were able to do little. The two real exceptions were Angola and Ethiopia. In Angola they had at least kept the South Africans out and had allowed the NPLA to consolidate its rule over the country. Lord Carrington commented that in his view the presence of Cubans in Angola had merely prolonged the internal difficulties while failing to cause UNITA to disappear. Their effect had been wholly disruptive. Turning to Gambia, President Stevens said that Senghor had complained to the OAU meeting that Qadhafi was trying to subvert Senegal by training terrorists in Libya. Some time ago, Qadhafi had also offered Gambia help over transport, and this had been accepted. But after a while, the Libyans had started to intrigue with the Gambian opposition parties. So very recently, Jawara had been forced to ask for help from Senegal and Guinea, though so far only Senegalese troops had arrived. Mr. Pratt added that having been in Banjul over the weekend, he could confirm that Senegalese troops were only to be seen at the airport and the town was calm. A week before, a senior Gambian officer had been shot, which had been interpreted as the beginning of an uprising; but it did not seem to be so. However, opinion was gaining ground in West Africa that the Libyans were trying to make trouble everywhere.

President Stevens finished by raising three bilateral points. First, British Caledonian had entered into an agreement with Sierra Leone to exploit their air routes. However, they had done little by way of training, in comparison with eg UTA and Air Afrique, who seemed to do more to train pilots, engineers, ground maintenance staff and managerial staff. At present, British Caledonian seemed to do no more than fly the Sierra Leonean flag; he wanted Sierra Leoneans to be more directly integrated into the operation. Secondly, he mentioned ECGD cover. This had now been withdrawn, and Sierra Leone did not even have short-term cover. It was agreed that this could usefully be followed up during a visit to Sierra Leone by ECGD officials later this year, in the wake of the IMF official

/ mission.

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- 5 -

mission. Finally, President Stevens mentioned the long-standing dispute over Kissy Jetty. He explained the background to what he described as a family affair which we should not have allowed to drag on so long. He would like to see the matter concluded now if possible. It was agreed that talks would continue at once at official level to try to identify a mutually acceptable solution.

The discussion ended at 1300.

AmS
—

13 November 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

E.R.

Prime Minister

CAROLINE

A note about tomorrow's Guard of Honour is attached. It is much as last week, though there is no wife to be greeted.

It is hoped that the Prime Minister will introduce General Langley to the President.

The Brigade Major is Colonel Corbett.
(The Prime Minister met him last Tuesday, and signed a photograph for him during the week.)

Jane

3 November 1980

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

GUARD OF HONOUR FOR PRESIDENT STEVENS

Members of the entourage will arrive a little ahead of the President and will wait at one side of the Parade Ground.

At 0855 the Prime Minister will arrive on Horse Guards Parade from the No. 10 garden gate. She will be met at the gate by Major General Langley, Major General commanding the Household Division, and Lieutenant Colonel Corbett, Brigade Major. They will escort the Prime Minister across the Parade Ground.

At 0900 President Stevens will arrive. The Guard of Honour is found by the 1st Battalion Irish Guards under the command of Major Holt, with the Regimental Colour, the Pipes and Drums of the Battalion, and the Band of the Irish Guards.

The Prime Minister will welcome President Stevens, and will introduce General Langley to him.

The Prime Minister will conduct President Stevens to a point opposite the colour and will stand with him midway between two Guardsmen acting as markers - the Prime Minister should stand on the President's right and a little behind him.

The Colour will be lowered and the Sierra Leone National Anthem will be played.

The Guard Commander will present his Guard of Honour to the President, who will then set off on the inspection. The President will be accompanied by the Major General and the Guard Commander.

The Prime Minister will remain with the Brigade Major until the President returns. She will then conduct the President towards the No. 10 gate.

On nearing the gate the Prime Minister will stop, turn, and take leave of the Major General and the Brigade Major.

The Prime Minister and President Stevens will then pause for photographs to be taken before entering the garden gate.

In the event of wet weather the Parade will not be cancelled but will continue as scheduled up to the point where the inspection of the Guard of Honour should begin. If there is heavy rain and the President does not wish to inspect the Guard of Honour the Prime Minister should lead him back to No. 10.



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a procedural
note from the F.C.O.

3 November 1980

GUARD OF HONOUR - PROCEDURE

1. At 0850 hours members of the President's entourage will arrive on the parade ground by car and wait near the colour points (see diagram attached)
2. At 0855 hours the Prime Minister will arrive on Horse Guards through the Garden Gate of No 10 Downing Street. She will be met at the Gate by Major General H D A Langley MBE, Major General Commanding the Household Division and General Officer Commanding London District. He will be accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel R J Corbett, Irish Guards, Brigade Major The Household Division. The Major General will then escort the Prime Minister to the Saluting base ready to receive President Stevens.
3. At 0900 hours President Stevens will arrive on Horse Guards Parade and will be greeted by a Guard of Honour formed by 1st Battalion Irish Guards under the command of Major B (Brian) W F Holt, with the Regimental Colour, the Pipes and Drums of the Battalion, and the Band of the Irish Guards.
4. Once the Prime Minister has welcomed President Stevens, the President will take his place on the saluting base, between the two Colour points. The Prime Minister should stand on his right and slightly behind him. After the Guard Commander has presented his Guard of Honour to the President, the Major General will accompany the President and the Guard Commander on the inspection. The Prime Minister should remain in the vicinity of the Colour Points with the Brigade Major until the inspection is completed, and the Major General has accompanied the President back to the Saluting base. The Prime Minister will then accompany President Stevens and a member of his entourage to the Garden Gate.
5. Other members of the President's entourage will then proceed to their cars which will be waiting by the police sentry box near the Garden Entrance to No 10.
6. Meanwhile the Major General and the Brigade Major will have taken their leave of the President and will authorise the dispersal of the Guard of Honour once the President has entered No 10 Downing Street.

WET WEATHER PROGRAMME

In the event of wet weather the Parade will not be cancelled. The programme will continue as scheduled up to the point where the inspection of the Guard of Honour should begin. If there is heavy rain at that point in the programme and the President does not wish to inspect the Guard of Honour the Prime Minister should lead President Stevens back to No 10.

HORSE GUARDS BUILDING

Lord Roberts

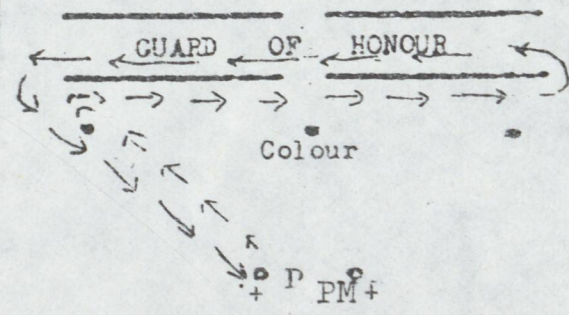
BAND and CORPS of DRUMS



Chinese mortar

LEGEND

- + Colour points
- P. President
- PM Prime Minister



10

DOWNING STREET

GARDEN ENTRANCE

Carriageway

OFFICIAL ENTOURAGE AND HIGH COMMISSION STAFF

Barriers

Barriers

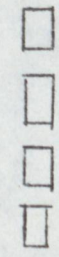
Cars wait for entourage

APPROACH ROUTE FOR CARS



Horse Guards Parade - South Side

Horse Guards Approach Road





With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

R

—

Type original form,

Paul

—

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

SW1A 2AH

CONFIDENTIAL

CALL BY PRESIDENT SIAKA STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE ON THE
PRIME MINISTER AT NO 10 DOWNING STREET AT 1200 ON
5 NOVEMBER 1980

PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP | HE Dr Siaka P Stevens |
| The Rt Hon Lord Carrington KCMG MC | Hon Dr Abdulai Conteh Minister of Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Richard Luce MP | Hon Dr S S Banya Minister of Development and Economic Planning |
| Mr D M Day CMG | Hon Mr S A J Pratt Minister of Trade and Industry |
| M. M O'B Alexander | Mr V E Sumner Sierra Leonean High Commission |
| Mr A C D S MacRae | |

1. Welcoming President Stevens to London, the Prime Minister said that she had learned much about Africa's view of the world from President Masir~~2~~'s recent visit and looked forward to equally frank discussions with President Stevens. President Stevens replied that he greatly appreciated the invitation to visit Britain. ~~Equally,~~ ^{also} ~~he~~ looked forward to a frank exchange of views. He felt that for the last five years or so, the links between Sierra Leone and Britain had somehow weakened. His countrymen always hoped to have preferential shares in 'the UK Limited'. We had been together so long. Yet Sierra Leone had begun to feel rather neglected of late; they noted the fact, for instance, that no British Ministers ever visited Freetown on their West African tours. This was a good moment, then, to renew our old friendship which, he

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/agreed

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agreed, was perhaps taken rather too much for granted. He was also a little disappointed that the educational links between our two countries seemed bound to be eroded by the higher students fees which we were demanding. This fell particularly heavily on poor countries like Sierra Leone who depended to such a high degree on the UK for training; they felt that Britain was mistaken to calculate everything in pounds, shillings and pence. On balance, however, he had nothing to complain about over our continuing development aid programme. He hoped that we would take more interest in other projects, including the development of tourism. Kimberlite mining was another future possibility. Here, Selection Trust having recently been bought by BP, he hoped that the Prime Minister might feel able to put in a word with the latter to persuade Selection Trust to be more active.

2. As to domestic policies, there were no particular problems. Sierra Leone's difficulties were mainly economic. They were particularly hard-hit by the escalation of oil prices: a large percentage of their exports had to go to meet the fuel bill. This situation coincided with a period when world prices for their main agricultural exports, such as cocoa and coffee, had gone down. They were nevertheless wondering how best to develop their agriculture; President Stevens thought that some large-scale plantations would be necessary to supplement the small producers. He mentioned the negotiations he had recently conducted with Alusuisse over a bauxite project. Unfortunately, this was hampered by inadequate transport infrastructure.

/3.

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3. The Prime Minister raised the question of Namibia. The present phase in the negotiations was being presented in a different light by different people. Lord Carrington said that he was now a little more optimistic; it seemed likely that the Pre-Independence Meeting (PIM) might take place soon. It would be useful to discuss the procedures for the election. It would, however, be disastrous, especially for a number of poorer African countries, if the threatened UN sanctions went ahead. President Stevens said that he was also reasonably optimistic. He kept closely in touch with the Front Line States. The OAU had been bound to seize the Security Council of the Namibia problem; but perhaps this might now be carried forward until after the PIM had taken place.

4. The Prime Minister asked what the OAU made of the disastrous situation in Uganda. Lord Carrington added that we had said that we would help with the forthcoming elections only on condition that the four parties could agree on the ground rules. Otherwise, the elections would be seen as no more than a device to return Obote to power. We could not be associated with elections that were evidently not free and fair. President Stevens commented that Britain should not wash its hands of Uganda: we had a special responsibility for it, not only as a Commonwealth country but also because we had been involved in the overthrow of Obote. Lord Carrington denied this absolutely. He said that we were quite as taken aback by Idi Amin Dada's coup as much as anyone else - and as Defence Minister at the time, he knew this to be so.

/5.

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5. The Prime Minister asked what would be the OAU's position towards South Africa once the Namibia problem was out of the way. For ourselves, we had many vital interests in that country and considered that the way forward must be by gradual but relentless change. Lord Carrington added that he thought it important that once the Namibia problem was settled, the OAU did not merely turn all its attentions to a destructive and negative attack on South Africa. It was important to develop links between South Africa and her black neighbours in order to bring about a change peacefully. Zimbabwe was an example of what could be done. Dr Conteh thought both sides would need to give assurances. If Zimbabwe, for instance, could say that it would not allow attacks to be mounted on South Africa from its territory, then the South Africans should in their turn give solemn undertakings not to attack Zimbabwe. Both sides must gradually allow trust to be built up between them.

6. The Prime Minister asked what success the OAU was having in tackling the Chad problem. President Stevens said that the recent peace-keeping meeting in Lomé had not succeeded; but at least they had managed to bring the two parties together. The next step seemed to be a further OAU conference to be held in Lagos in the next few weeks. The Prime Minister asked about Dr Conteh's recent visit to Cuba and what he made of the Cuban military presence in Africa. Dr Conteh said that the Cuban presence was sometimes much exaggerated in the press. For instance, he had once, recently, seen a map which indicated that there were Cuban troops in Sierra Leone: but he could assure the Prime Minister that there were none! In Mali and

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/Guinea

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Guinea, for example, they were able to do little. The two real exceptions were Angola and Ethiopia. In Angola they had at least kept the South Africans out and had allowed the NPLA to consolidate its rule over the country. Lord Carrington commented that in his view the presence of Cubans in Angola had merely prolonged the internal difficulties while failing to cause UNITA to disappear. Their effect had been wholly disruptive. Turning to Gambia, President Stevens said that Senghor had complained to the OAU meeting that Qadhafi was trying to subvert Senegal by training terrorists in Libya. Some time ago, Qadhafi had also offered Gambia help over transport, and this had been accepted. But after a while, the Libyans had started to intrigue with the Gambian opposition parties. So very recently, Jawara had been forced to ask for help from Senegal and Guinea, though so far only Senegalese troops had arrived. Mr Pratt added that having been in Banjul over the weekend, he could confirm that Senegalese troops were only to be seen at the airport and the town was calm. A week before, a senior Gambian officer had been shot, which had been interpreted as the beginning of an uprising; but it did not seem to be so. However, opinion was gaining ground in West Africa that the Libyans were trying to make trouble everywhere.

7. President Stevens finished by raising three bilateral points. First, British Caledonian had entered into an agreement with Sierra Leone to exploit their air routes. However, they had done little by way of training, in comparison with eg UTA and Air Afrique, who seemed to do

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more to train pilots, engineers, ground maintenance staff and managerial staff. At present, British Caledonian seemed to do no more than fly the Sierra Leonean flag; he wanted Sierra Leoneans to be more directly integrated into the operation. Secondly, he mentioned ECGD cover. This had now been withdrawn, and Sierra Leone did not even have short-term cover. It was agreed that this could usefully be followed up during a visit to Sierra Leone by ECGD officials later this year, in the wake of the IMF official mission. Finally, President Stevens mentioned the long-standing dispute over Kissy Jetty. He explained the background to what he described as a family affair which we should not have allowed to drag on so long. He would like to see the matter concluded now if possible. It was agreed that talks would continue at once at official level to try to identify a mutually acceptable solution.

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Sierra Leone



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 October 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by President Stevens of Sierra Leone

5-7 November 1980

I enclose briefs for the Prime Minister's use at the talks with President Stevens at 1200 noon on Wednesday 5 November.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B A lexander Esq
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

STEERING BRIEF

1. President Stevens has been invited to visit Britain mainly in his capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Other Western powers besides ourselves have decided that the holder of this post is worth cultivating in recognition of his year in office: thus President Stevens has also of late been invited on official visits to Paris, Washington (in September) and Bonn (visit postponed at the last moment because of the coup in Liberia).
2. It follows that Brief No 3 below, covering International Affairs, deals mainly with African issues. Our main interest is to get our views over clearly on Southern Africa, particularly on the need for the OAU to avoid any damaging action at this critical juncture in the Namibia negotiations (3(b)). It will also be a good moment to underline the serious damage that would be done to a number of Black African countries by sanctions against South Africa. It will be useful to hear from President Stevens how he is getting on in his efforts to mediate in two potentially dangerous regional conflicts in West Africa: Chad and the Western Sahara (3(c) and (d)). Neither threaten major British interests directly; but both, if allowed to fester, could destabilize the region to our detriment and possibly lead to increased outside interference (Libyans, Cubans, etc). An exchange of views on current Soviet and Cuban designs (3(f)) in Africa would be useful: President Stevens, an ex-trade unionist, is a staunch anti-marxist and harbours few illusions on this score, despite the official non-alignment of his foreign policy.
3. But although his OAU post provides the occasion for the visit, there are also bilateral reasons: Sierra Leone was one of our earliest colonies in Africa, and the third independent African Commonwealth country. Yet relations have become rather distant. President Stevens himself, despite his sentimental attachment to the UK, and position as one of the longest-serving Commonwealth Heads of Government, has never been here on an official visit. Only three British Junior Ministers have been to Sierra Leone in the last decade and no Cabinet Ministers. Our aid programme has been relatively small - even if the frustrations of administering it have been great. So the Sierra Leonean Government, and President

/Stevens



Stevens in particular, feel neglected by us and tend to draw unflattering comparisons with the solicitude shown by the French towards their ex-colonies.

4. Brief No 4 below covers bilateral issues. Our trade (4(a)) with exports currently worth some £35m a year, is hampered by Sierra Leone's chronic lack of cash - a situation common enough even in the colonial era. However, UK firms have substantial interests in diamonds. We hope to be able to sign an Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments during the visit. We also aim to give President Stevens an idea of the level of aid (4(b)) we can offer after the present tranche runs out. This is very modest (£3.5m new commitments) in view of Sierra Leone's vast needs: but it will be used to improve rural roads by providing Bailey bridges - and thus helping our own-steel industry. We can expect to be attacked over the recent increases in foreign students' fees, which fall particularly heavily on very poor countries like Sierra Leone with a long tradition of sending students to Britain. The one bilateral issue which we have been warned that President Stevens wants to discuss is Kissy Jetty (a complicated saga concerning port installations in Freetown once the property of the RN). We are arranging for this to be dealt with in bilateral talks with the Sierra Leonean Foreign and Trade Ministers.

5. The programme is fairly light. The President, although still very active, is 75 and did not wish to become too exhausted. However, the day before his official programme begins, this tough ex-miner, policeman and trade unionist, will be making a sentimental journey to Oxford to visit his old college, Ruskin - although he faces serious trouble at home with students and teachers (Background Note).



VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

SIERRA LEONE: BASIC FACTS

- Area: 72,326 sq kms (ie about the size of Ireland - one of the smaller Black African countries). Scenically attractive: mountains, forests, etc.
- Population: About 3.5 million (ie rather more than Wales). Population growth: 2.5% pa. Only about 2% are Creoles (ie descendants of original freed slaves).
- Economic: GNP per head about \$200 - ie one of the poorest countries in Africa. Average annual growth since Independence has only been about 0.5%. Yet annual inflation rate over last decade has been over 10%. Economy always shaky despite promising resources.
- Resources: Diamonds; other minerals (eg iron ore, bauxite, rutile, gold and chrome); agricultural products (eg rice, coffee, palm oil, groundnuts, etc.)
- History: Freetown was 18th century British colony where slaves were freed. Protectorate proclaimed over hinterland 1896 - latter always more backward. Independence 1961 under Milton Margai. Stevens veteran trades unionist politician, came to power after military rule, in 1968.



SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE,
5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

Monday, 3 November

0950 President Stevens arrives at Heathrow Airport by Flight
BA 613 (De Havilland Suite, Terminal 1)

Met by Lord-in-Waiting to Her Majesty The Queen, The Lord
Lyell, and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Richard Luce MP.

1000 Leave the airport by car
(approx)

1100 Arrive Claridge's, Brook Street, W1
(approx)
No official engagements

Tuesday, 4 November

0845 Leave Claridge's
(approx)

0858 Arrive Horse Guards Parade

Met by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

0900 Received by a Guard of Honour (Irish Guards)

Inspect the Guard of Honour

Leave Horse Guards Parade accompanied by the Prime Minister
via Garden entrance, 10 Downing Street

Leave Downing Street

1100 Private visit to the University of Oxford, Ruskin College

1430 Leave Ruskin College and return to Claridge's

No official engagements

/Wednesday



Wednesday, 5 November

- 0945 Leave Claridge's
- 1000 Arrive Westminster Abbey, Great West Door
Met by the Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr Edward Carpenter
The President will lay a wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior
- 1030 (approx) Leave Westminster Abbey and return to Claridge's
- 1100 The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, The Rt Hon The Lord Carrington, will call on His Excellency the President at Claridge's
- 1145 Leave Claridge's
- 1155 Arrive 10 Downing Street
- 1200 Talks with the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
- 1300 Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government
for Host: The Prime Minister
1315
Leave 10 Downing Street and return to Claridge's
No official engagements

Thursday, 6 November

- 1000 The President will receive a delegation from the All People's
to Congress Party at Claridge's
1200
- 1240 Leave Claridge's
- 1300 Arrive Mansion House, EC4
- 1245 Luncheon given by the Corporation of London
for Host: Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Gadsden
1315
Leave Mansion House and return to Claridge's
- 1615 The General Manager of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, will call on His Excellency the President at Claridge's
- 1645 His Excellency the President will receive calls by individual
to businessmen at Claridge's
1800
- 1950 Leave Claridge's



2000 Private supper given by the Diamond Trading Co (Pty) Ltd
Host: The Chairman, Sir Philip Oppenheimer
Connaught Hotel, Carlos Place, W1
Dress: Lounge Suit

Return to Claridge's

Friday, 7 November

1000 The President will receive further calls by individual
to businessmen at Claridge's

1200

Leave Claridge's

1300

Arrive Buckingham Palace
Privy Purse Entrance, entering by South Centre Gate
Luncheon by Her Majesty The Queen

Depart from Buckingham Palace and return to Claridge's

1630

Press Briefing at Claridge's

1715

OAU Heads of Mission call on the President

[Details of Dr Stevens' departure not yet known]

Attachment to Lyne to Alexander

31/10/80





VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION

President Stevens will be accompanied by:

The Hon Dr Abdulai Conteh
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon Dr S S Banya
Minister of Development and Economic Planning

The Hon Mr S A J Pratt
Minister of Trade and Industry

The Hon Brigadier J S Momoh
Minister of State and Force Commander

The Hon Justice Omrie Golley
Judge

Madame Veronica
Paramount Chief

Mr Makura Konta
Paramount Chief

Mr P M Johnson
Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (ADC to President)

Mr Gobio Lamin
Presidential Aide

Mr George E Taylor
Deputy Secretary, President's Office

Mr G S K Banya
Protocol Officer

Mrs Fashu Collier
Headmistress

Mr Jenner Metcalf-Cole
Freetown City Alderman

Miss C Wright
Confidential Secretary to the President

Master Benjamin Davies
Student representative

VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 2: BACKGROUND NOTE ON SIERRA LEONE

(a) INTERNAL POLITICAL

1. Bordered by Guinea and Liberia. The first British colony in West Africa. About the size of Ireland. Most of the 3.5m population Muslim or Animist, although in Freetown (where all the Creoles live) Christian and Muslim ratio is about 50:50.

2. Independent in April 1961, under Sir Milton Margai. Succeeded in 1964 by his brother, Sir Albert Margai. Dr Siaka Stevens' All Party Congress (APC) party in power since 1968, after a short period of military rule. (Albert Margai now lives in exile in England) Increasing disenchantment with the government's economic policies, corruption and mismanagement, has resulted in short periods of military and civil unrest since then. In 1977, the President, bowing to public pressure, in particular from students, agreed to hold elections one year earlier than the due date. The APC, aided by a certain amount of force and electoral fraud, ensured its return to office, though 15 opposition MPs were returned to Parliament out of a total of 85 elected. President Stevens subsequently brought about a peaceful transition to a one-party state in 1978. He remains in complete command of the country and commands much respect. He has had some success with his policy of burying tribal differences. Nevertheless, the burden of a tottering economy, aggravated by expenditure on the OAU Summit Conference in Freetown in June/July 1980, widespread corruption and shock waves from the coup in Liberia in April 1980, have contributed to mounting uneasiness in the country.

(b) ECONOMIC

3. Considerable natural resources in agriculture, fisheries and minerals. But dependence for more than 35 years on diamonds as the mainstay of the economy, weak economic management and the rising cost of imports, particularly of fuel supplies, have hampered their exploitation. Various long-term development plans have virtually come to nought. In 1977 the IMF granted Sierra Leone a standby loan and the Western creditor countries (the Paris Club) later agreed to reschedule certain official commercial debts.

/Further



Further IMF standby arrangement agreed in 1979 and another rescheduling of debts by the Paris Club in February 1980. Sierra Leone has resisted calls by the IMF for a further devaluation, but the Leone was devalued by 5% in October 1978 and unpegged from the £, and has been floating downwards in value ever since. Most aid received from the West and from the international agencies. Britain's bilateral aid programme has been running at about £2 m. per year, including training programmes.

4. Diamonds still count for nearly 60% of all foreign exchange earnings but the mine is gradually being worked out. Only the high prices which have been paid on the world market in the past few years have continued to make production viable. Iron ore ceased to contribute to the economy since the closure of the British-owned Sierra Leone Development Company (DELCO) Mine in 1975. The country also has substantial reserves of bauxite and rutile, both of which are mined by foreign companies. There are current reports of discovery of huge gold deposits. 70% of the population are engaged in farming, mainly at subsistence level, but development of coffee, cocoa, rubber and coconuts under active consideration by various Western agencies and companies.

(c) FOREIGN POLICY

5. A non-aligned policy. Relations with the West are good. Cordial links with communist countries but apart from Chinese capital aid programme (bridges, stadium), little overt activity by them. Condemned Soviet invasion of Afghanistan but attended Moscow Olympics. A more active role in African affairs since the appointment of Dr Abdulai Conteh as Foreign Minister in 1977. Participation in Commonwealth observer team to Zimbabwe elections. President Stevens is currently Chairman of the OAU. SL belongs to the Lomé Convention, the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) and has an economic union with Liberia known as the Mano River Union (Guinea has also just joined).

6. Sierra Leone will treat with any country which might help her economically. Much recent wooing of Arab states, but without apparent success. Bilateral relations with France have blossomed of late, a result of some effort on the part of the French.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3(a) ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) GENERAL
POINTS TO MAKE

1. Congratulations on most successful arrangements for Freetown Summit in June and your skilful chairmanship. Appreciate what a burden the presidency places on smaller OAU members.
2. Gratified that Zimbabwe was able to take its seat as a full member for the first time.
3. We pay much attention to the OAU's views on African problems; so look forward to discussing some of your current preoccupations.

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3(a) OAU GENERAL: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The OAU chair rotates every year. Sierra Leone took over from Liberia at recent Summit at Freetown. Stevens was close to Tolbert, so was personally much shaken by latter's violent overthrow last April. Also, it posed a 'constitutional' problem: should Master-Sergeant Doe formally hand over to President Stevens? Nigeria for one threatened to walk out if so. Sierra Leone finessed the problem - and generally handled the rather ill-tempered debates that followed quite well.
2. But the presidency of the OAU is an almost guaranteed way of damaging the economies of the smaller members, as new roads, hotels and VIP villas are run up for the occasion. Sierra Leone is no exception, even though its efforts have been relatively modest and will mostly be of some use afterwards.
3. President Stevens is now much engaged in OAU mediation efforts (see below) where his 'elder statesman' position and considerable negotiating experience (first as a trade union leader) stand him in good stead. He should hand over to President Moi in June.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
3(b) NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA
POINTS TO MAKE

UK POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

1. Independence of Namibia our major short-term goal. Thereafter peaceful change in South Africa leading to a system based on the consent of all its peoples.

NAMIBIA

2. Giving full support to UN's current efforts to find an early solution. Seize opportunity created by UN mission to Pretoria. How does OAU view current situation?

POSSIBLE PRE-IMPLEMENTATION MEETING TO INCLUDE INTERNAL PARTIES

3. Raised by UN during Pretoria talks. Waldheim will report to Security Council. Could be key to retaining South African agreement to date for implementation.

RAID BY SOUTH AFRICAN AND NAMIBIAN FORCES ON ANGOLA [IF RAISED]

4. We deplore violence from whatever quarter. Regret loss of life in Angola; do not condone action of South African forces.

SOUTH AFRICA INTERNAL

5. Our abhorrence of apartheid, including homelands policy, well known. Pace of reform too slow, but best way to encourage change is through maintained dialogue. Hope new SA Cabinet and Mr Botha's Transvaal speech herald more change.

SANCTIONS

6. Understand widespread impatience over pace of advance over Namibia. But doubt that sanctions work: make S.Africans more intransigent, hurt black South Africans and neighbouring Black African countries - as well as UK and Western interests. [If pressed] Cannot predict now how we would vote on sanctions in hypothetical future circumstances.

7. Is OAU aware of effect of sanctions (and S.African retaliation) on SA's neighbours? Tempting for those who are distant (and richer) to call the tune.

ARMS EMBARGO [DEFENSIVE]

8. UK carrying out its obligations. All alleged breaches carefully investigated. No need to extend embargo. Would damage prospects for early Namibia settlement. No UK evidence to suggest that SA has developed or tested nuclear weapons.

UK LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA [DEFENSIVE]

9. Civil trade and investment should be determined by commercial considerations. We encourage adherence to the EC Code of Conduct to promote reform and enlightened labour relations in SA. We do not collaborate militarily with SA. Under Gleneagles Agreement, we discourage sporting contact but our sports bodies are independent.

3(b) NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA: ESSENTIAL FACTS

UK/SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS

1. Tendency for OAU to exaggerate extent of UK influence on South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA INTERNAL

2. P W Botha has embarked on a programme of limited reforms in the apartheid system; but last session of Parliament ended disappointingly without major legislative reforms. Botha has abandoned idea of advisory council of blacks: there are no blacks - and few coloureds of note - on the new President's Council. But his speech to the Transvaal National Party Congress (3 September) revived hope of further change. Inclusion of several new 'verligtes' in the new Cabinet should help him circumvent opposition from the NP right-wing.

3. SA hopes to involve the 'independent' and non-independent homelands in a 'Confederation of Southern African States' with separate sovereignties and citizenships but common nationality, to avoid problem of an 'independent' homeland citizen losing any entitlement to South African nationality. This is their recognition that 'independent' homelands have no prospect of economic viability.

SANCTIONS/UK ECONOMIC LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

4. UK exports to SA in 1979 were £714m (15th largest market) and imports from South Africa were £534m. But this year, our exports to Nigeria alone are considerably more. UK investment in SA totals £4 to £5 billion (about 10% of all UK investment overseas; UK is largest single foreign investor in SA).

5. Our exports to Black Africa are worth about three times as much as to South Africa; investments are worth almost as much. The UN sanctions choice is thus potentially highly damaging to UK either way. Risk of African retaliation seems far less in case of a triple veto (with USA and France).

6. South Africa's neighbours (eg Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique) would be particularly affected. Although such countries might reasonably expect to gain exemption from having to implement UN sanctions nothing could protect them from the effects of possible South Africa retaliation. The West would be in no position to bail them out of their resulting economic difficulties.

NAMIBIA: UN MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA, 20-25 OCTOBER

7. Some signs of progress, eg on UN impartiality. Conditional agreement on a date for implementation not ruled out. Clearly no breakdown. Mr Urquhart (UN negotiator) seems to have come away fairly hopeful.

NAMIBIA: PUBLIC SIGNS OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATTITUDE

8. Foreign Minister stated that there was now greater understanding about real problems involved, but his government were still seeking a settlement acceptable to all. Mudge (leader of Democratic Turnhalle Alliance and Chairman of the Namibian 'Council of Ministers' - a body which the Five and the Front Line States do not recognize) said Namibian independence could become feasible by the end of 1981.

UN CONTINUING SEARCH FOR NAMIBIA AGREEMENT

9. Waldheim consulted Front Line States, the Five and SWAPO during the week ending 31 Oct 1980, to explore a possible way forward. The Five continue to give maximum support to Waldheim.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3(c) CHAD

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Sad to hear that Lomé peace conference, under your chairmanship, ended without a solution on 19 October. What was the cause of the breakdown?
2. We fully support attempts by OAU, led by yourself and by General Eyedema of Togo, to bring the warring factions together and promote a peace that will stick. The continuing flow of arms from abroad for the two main factions is dangerous. We agree that this African problem should be solved by Africa.

DEFENSIVE POINTS

3. Aware of the alleged supply of Libyan and Egyptian arms, and of recent reports of unidentified aircraft (probably Libyan) bombing Ndjamená. We are certainly not supplying arms to either side. No confirmation of press reports about German, Italian and British mercenaries fighting for Goukouni and doubt their truth.

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CHAD: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Since the outbreak of civil war on 21 March 1980, fighting has continued in the area of Ndjamena (the capital) and in many other parts of Chad. However, the south (where most of the 'African' - rather than 'Arab' - population live) remains relatively calm.
2. The two main warring factions, headed by President Goukouni Weddeye (who controls the north-west of the country) and ex-Defence Minister Habré (who holds part of Ndjamena and the north-east) are being supplied with arms and ammunition by Libya and Egypt respectively (the latter overland through Sudan). The French have withdrawn their troops and are trying to maintain a neutral stance. But they are also trying to keep the economy going in the south (loyal more to Goukouni than Habré), but yet are accused (unfairly) of helping Habré.
3. There have been recent reports of unidentified aircraft bombing Ndjamena. None of the Chad factions hold any operational aircraft (and there is no aviation fuel): so these were almost certainly Libyan. Habré's faction have also alleged that German, Italian and British mercenaries have been fighting for Goukouni. But this has not been confirmed, and may well be misinformation.
4. An early end to the fighting seems unlikely. While OAU states (particularly those in the region) are keen to find an African solution to the problem and wish to avoid UN involvement if possible, the two main protagonists (both young, fiery 'traditional leaders' from the north) seem irreconcilable.
5. President Eyedema of Togo has recently been mediating actively to resolve the conflict, with support from President Stevens. But the latest peace conference ended in failure in Lomé on 19 October. The OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Chad is to continue its search for peace, and Eyedema's special responsibility to try to end the fighting was reconfirmed.
6. Over 100,000 refugees have fled Ndjamena across the border to Kousseri in southern Cameroon; and others have gone to Northern Nigeria. The UK's disaster fund contributed £10,000 of medical supplies in April, but has been unable to meet further requests for help. The International Red Cross has recently had to withdraw from Ndjamena because it could not play an impartial role.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3(d) WESTERN SAHARA

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Our policy (and that of the European Community) is one of neutrality: European involvement would not be productive. Nevertheless we are concerned that the dispute threatens stability in North West Africa, and welcome OAU efforts to reach a peaceful solution.
2. Appreciate difficulty of neutral chairmanship of OAU Committee of Wise Men. What chance that Committee's recommendations lead to a peaceful settlement? How will it be possible to discover the real views of the Western Sahara's nomadic population?
3. We recognize danger of break-up of OAU if Morocco rejects recommendations and the OAU recognizes Sahara Arab Democratic Republic. This would be in no-one's interests.

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3(d) WESTERN SAHARA: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Former colony of Western Sahara was carved up between Morocco and Mauritania when Spain withdrew in 1975. Mauritania has since withdrawn its claims over its third; so Morocco now occupies and claims it all. The Algerian- and Libyan-backed Polisario Front demand independence for the territory; have formed a government in exile, the Sahara Arab Democratic Republic (SADR); and have mounted an increasingly successful guerilla war against Moroccan occupying troops, as well as Southern Morocco itself. Efforts at mediation have so far proved fruitless. The OAU's 'Committee of Wise Men', now under SL chairmanship, met in Sept. 1980. They called for a ceasefire and a referendum under UN auspices.
2. Britain, in line with the Nine, has neither accepted Moroccan claims to the Western Sahara nor recognized the Polisario Front or the SADR. British aims have been to avoid any direct involvement; to maintain good relations with both Algeria and Morocco; and to encourage a peaceful solution.
3. So far, Morocco has rejected the Wise Men's call for a referendum. It argues that the views of the Western Saharan people were obtained in Jan. 1976 when the Yemaa (an assembly appointed by the Spanish in colonial days) approved the Madrid Agreement which divided the former colony between Morocco and Mauritania. But the Moroccan position may be moving. Mr Hurd was told in confidence in Rabat that they would accept a referendum but on their terms. Pres. Stevens may not be aware of this development. Moroccan reactions to Wise Men's meeting may have been influenced by absence of any condemnation of Morocco by the Committee or of demands for military and/or administrative withdrawals from the Sahara. Also, the Committee agreed for first time to hear the views of representatives of pro-Moroccan groups in the Sahara (not just the Polisario). Its recommendations have yet to be endorsed by a full OAU summit - and meanwhile the fighting continues. King Hassan may attend such a summit in person to argue his case. His own political survival could be affected by the outcome of this problem.
4. Algeria's public line is that the dispute should be settled by self-determination. Yet in practice, they recognize the Polisario Front as the sole representatives of the people of the area. Like the OAU Wise Men, they have not faced up to the great practical difficulty of ascertaining the wishes of its nomadic

/population

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population (variously estimated at between 60,000 and 150,000) spread over an area rather larger than the UK, nearly all desert. Even the Polisario is composed of Malis, Mauritians and other Saharans, as well as natives of W. Sahara itself.

5. Polisario depend on surprise attacks and great mobility. British land-rovers, acquired indirectly, have been their main war-horse (or -camel).

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3(e) THE HORN OF AFRICA

POINTS TO MAKE

1. We are concerned about continued tension in the Horn. While Ethiopia/Somalia dispute is obviously root cause, civil wars in Eritrea and Tigray are adding to the instability. Recent state of emergency in Somalia show strains imposed on President Barre by economic disarray and internal dissatisfaction with conduct of foreign policy.
2. Presence in region of large numbers of Soviet military advisers and Cuban troops a destabilizing factor which HMG deplors.
3. HMG acknowledges OAU doctrine of integrity of boundaries. Need for disputes to be resolved by peaceful negotiation, preferably through OAU. But as Pres. Stevens said at recent UN General Assembly, efforts of OAU Good Offices Committee to mediate in the dispute seem to have had little success.
4. How does Pres. Stevens see situation? What are OAU plans for further action?

[DEFENSIVE]

5. US/Somalia Defence Access Agreement is a logical and legitimate American response to Afghanistan and recent events in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. HMG supports it. The Agreement is not aimed at Ethiopia. On the contrary, it could contribute to stability in the Horn. Ethiopian protests, when their country has been full of Soviet military advisers, and even troops, for years now, ring slightly hollow.

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3(e) THE HORN OF AFRICA: ESSENTIAL FACTS

ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA

1. In July 1977, Somali regular armed forces invaded the Ogaden region of Ethiopia in support of ethnic Somali insurgent movements. The switch of Soviet and Cuban support from Somalia to Ethiopia caused Somalia to abrogate in November 1977 Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet Union. By early 1978, the Somalis had withdrawn in defeat. Since then they have continued to give the insurgents in the Ogaden both political and military support in bitter period of undeclared war. During the first part of 1980 several regular Somali units were deployed well inside Ethiopia. By August virtually all these had been withdrawn in face of strong Ethiopian counter-offensive. The Ethiopians subsequently mounted two probing ground attacks, probably in hot pursuit, into Somalia. The Somalis attempted to project these as invasions which they claim is Ethiopian objective. There is no evidence that Ethiopia has any such intention.

ERITREA AND TIGRAY

2. Eritrea and Tigray provinces still dispute central government control. Ethiopian Government recovered most of Eritrea in 1978; but since then, military operations against the Eritrean liberation movements have failed to achieve a complete military solution. Much of Tigray is not under Addis Ababa's control despite recent military operations using sophisticated Soviet equipment which has caused considerable casualties among civilian population.

3. Mengistu seems unwilling to countenance any political solutions acceptable to the secessionists. He has, however, improved relations with Sudan from where the secessionists had been permitted to operate and obtain supplies via Port Sudan. This rapprochement may curb secessionist operations.

SOMALIA

4. President Barre declared nationwide state of emergency on 21 October (Anniversary of Revolution Day). Cause of decision unclear but it is almost certainly connected with growing disillusion with Barre's régime. More hawkish elements in ruling hierarchy may have been considering ousting Barre. But atmosphere in Mogadishu is apparently relaxed.

/SOVIET

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SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE HORN

5. Main role of approx. 15,000 Cuban troops in Ethiopia is to relieve Ethiopians of garrison duties especially in the Ogaden and provide logistic support. Russians have 1,000-2,000 military advisers at all levels. They have no formal bases; but have access to Ethiopian military facilities including the Dahlak Islands in the Red Sea, where they have naval repair facilities including a floating dock. East Germans have about 500 advisers in Ethiopia, working for the media and state security.

OAU DOCTRINE

6. OAU Charter provides for territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers as defined at decolonization. Whilst boundaries in Africa were often drawn regardless of ethnic considerations, any breach of this doctrine obviously has serious implications for stability of continent.

7. The OAU Good Offices Committee (chaired by Nigeria) charged with mediating in the Ethiopia/Somali dispute, last met in Lagos from 18-20 August. Upholding OAU doctrine, Committee confirmed the existing frontier in a resolution that discomfited Somalia.

8. In his speech to the General Assembly in New York on 24 September President Stevens pointed out that this had done nothing towards resolving the dispute.

UNITED STATES/SOMALIA

9. The conclusion of the US/Somali Defence Access Agreement last August was an American response to Soviet expansionism in Afghanistan and the Indian Ocean, and to instability in the Middle East. It was not stimulated by the situation in The Horn. Some US officials remain concerned that the US could become embroiled in Somali activities in the Ogaden. The Americans have told us that the agreement, which includes a \$45m grant for defensive military equipment and economic assistance, is similar to those reached with Kenya and Oman. In a confidential side letter, Somalia undertakes not to deploy regular forces in the Ogaden. Ethiopia sent delegations to some 19 capitals including London to protest that the agreement posed a threat to their security. It is difficult to think that they seriously believe this and that the Americans will allow any adventurism by the Somalis. Indeed, the US presence should act as a curb. They were probably put up to it by the Russians (see above).

EXTRACT FROM
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING
OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1980

(President Stevens)

As if we did not have enough problems in the continent, the tension between Somalia and Ethiopia over the Ogaden continues to increase. This has been seriously complicated by the situation in the Middle East in general and in the Gulf in particular and the build-up of the presence of major Powers in the Indian Ocean.

To lessen these tensions and to prevent the conflict over the Ogaden from becoming the fuse for igniting a major super-Power confrontation, the Good Offices Committee established by the Organization of African Unity in 1973 to try to effect a reconciliation between Ethiopia and Somalia met in Lagos from 18 to 20 August 1980. At the conclusion of that meeting, at which both Ethiopia and Somalia were represented, the Committee recommended that a peaceful solution to the Ogaden dispute could be arrived at on the basis of the following principles, which are already enshrined in the Charter and relevant resolutions of the Organization of African Unity: recognition of territorial integrity, non-interference in domestic affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, prohibition of subversion and inviolability of borders inherited on decolonization. It further recommended that the two States should resume diplomatic relations so as to facilitate the restoration of peace in this troubled area. Unfortunately, the efforts of the Good Offices Committee do not seem to have been successful and, if anything, tension appears to have increased of late.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3(f) ROLE OF CUBA IN AFRICA

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Understand that Dr Conteh has just visited Cuba. Interested to know his impressions about future Cuban policy towards Africa.
2. Cuba remains the main military front in Africa for the Soviet bloc. We do not accept that the presence in the Continent of over 30,000 Cuban troops is justified. Their presence does nothing for the stability of the area. It understandably causes us anxiety about communist intentions, especially in the light of Afghanistan.

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3(f) ROLE OF CUBA IN AFRICA: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. BBC Monitoring reported arrival in Cuba of Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister on 9 October. We have no report of our own yet of Dr Conteh's visit. Cuba used to be involved in training para-military units in Sierra Leone; and her troops staged through Freetown on way to Angola in mid-70s. But they now keep heads down.

ANGOLA

2. Of the estimated 34,000 Cuban troops in Africa, about 19,000 are in Angola. There are also about 6,000 Cuban civilian advisers there. Angolans argue that their security continues to depend on the Cuban presence. The Cuban troops have a garrison rather than a forward role. A key task is, ironically, the protection of American Gulf Oil installations (Angola's major earner of foreign exchange) in the Cabinda enclave.

3. Angolan Ministers have said publicly (and privately to FCO Ministers in the past) that they expect Cuban troops to be withdrawn once a Namibian settlement has been reached.

ETHIOPIA

4. See above. About 15,000 Cuban troops remain (2,000 have been withdrawn in the past two years). Their main use is garrison duties in the Ogaden. Their logistical aid role in Eritrea has been low key because of earlier Cuban support for the other side - the Eritrean liberation movements. No further significant withdrawals seem planned. A large number of Cuban civilians also work as aid personnel. Mengistu's régime depends on the Soviet/Cuban presence for its survival.

UGANDA

6. Communist interest in Uganda is growing. Muwanga, President of the Military Commission, visited Cuba at the end of September. He received high-level treatment. A scientific and technical agreement was signed. But we have no evidence to confirm speculation that the real purpose of Muwanga's visit was to seek Cuban military support. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and North Korea are busily cultivating, and quite probably helping to finance, Obote.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3(g) THE COMMONWEALTH

POINTS TO MAKE

1. The Commonwealth can be proud of its contribution to the settlement in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. Grateful for Sierra Leone participation in Commonwealth Observer Group.
2. Hope it will prove possible for Commonwealth to assist over Uganda elections.
3. Look forward to next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne which Senior Officials are currently discussing in Nicosia.

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3(g) THE COMMONWEALTH: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Sierra Leone is a moderate, committed but not very prominent member of the Commonwealth, generally non-aligned but identified with G77 on North/South issues. Provided representative for the Commonwealth Observer Group for the Rhodesian elections.
2. Commonwealth currently considering providing financial assistance and observers for Ugandan elections scheduled for 10 December, subject to ground rules being established and agreed by all parties.
3. Commonwealth Senior Officials now meeting in Nicosia to review progress since Lusaka Heads of Government Meeting and prepare for next one in Melbourne 1981.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
3(h) NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE
POINTS TO MAKE

1. Regret we were unable to reach consensus at UN Special Session on procedures for Global Negotiations. But result was not final breakdown. Discussion of agenda and procedures will continue during General Assembly later this month. We will continue to work for successful launch of Global Negotiations on a generally acceptable basis.
2. Disagreement turns on important issue of principal. We are determined to preserve integrity of Specialized Agencies (eg IMF). Cannot accept that decisions of these Agencies should be overridden by a UN Conference. Significant that the countries responsible for the three major international currencies took same view.
3. North/South Summit (if raised). Mexicans have enquired whether we would accept an invitation, if offered; we replied that we would be willing to attend. But careful preparation would be essential.

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NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Sierra Leone is not prominent in N/S discussions. But as OAU Chairman, Pres. Stevens can be expected strongly to support G77 position. At UN General Assembly, he expressed regret at the outcome of the Special Session, and called for renewed application on the part of Western countries, Communist countries and oil producers to problems of developing world.
2. Special Session (25 August-15 September) concentrated on procedures for Global Negotiations. Main issues were preservation of competence of Specialized Agencies, especially IMF and IBRD, the nature of the final agreement and how it would be reached. After much discussion a text emerged which most developed countries were prepared to accept. But Americans rejected it as not sufficiently protecting integrity of the International Financial Institutions. UK and Germany supported them; rest of Community joined majority in favour. Agenda and procedures will be further discussed in General Assembly, starting 17 Nov.
3. Special Session agreed on International Development Strategy for the decade. But may have to wait to be adopted by General Assembly until outstanding issues on Global Negotiations have been settled.
4. UK has been criticized along with US and FRG (though relatively mildly at recent Commonwealth Finance Ministers and IMF/IBRD meetings). We have tried to play down failure of Session, expressing hope that quiet diplomacy will provide a solution, while remaining firm about the issue of principle.
5. Cuts in UK aid programme have had a considerable effect, especially in recipient countries, on our reputation on North/South matters. UK was singled out, albeit inaccurately, by McNamara at IMF/IBRD meetings. (He claimed UK aid would fall from 0.52% of GNP in 1979 to 0.38% by 1985. Apart from his questionable assumptions about rate of GNP growth, we have taken no decisions on aid spending that far ahead.)
6. In general the Bank/Fund meetings produced a reasonable response to the economic difficulties provoked by the latest oil crisis and showed that the two organizations can adapt quickly. But underlying difficulties remain, particularly over whether IMF should move towards a role as an aid institution. Major Western countries, including the UK, are not prepared to accept this.

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7. North/South Summit. Date currently envisaged is March 1981. However some potential participants would like it postponed; the Mexicans have suggested that without progress on launching the Global Negotiations, there will be little point in holding the Summit. Date may therefore slip. Meeting of sponsors (Mexico, Austria, Canada, Sweden, India, Nigeria, Algeria, Yugoslavia, FRG and France) will take place in Vienna on 7 November. Other countries on the Mexican invitation list for the Summit itself are Brazil, Jamaica, Venezuela, Philippines, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Japan, US and UK. From Africa, Tanzania and a francophone African country, possibly Senegal, are included.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS

4(a) TRADE

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Sierra Leone one of our oldest trading partners in West Africa. Glad to heard Pres. Stevens will be having talks with British businessmen during visit.

INVESTMENT

2. Britain lives on its world trade: so obviously we encourage mutually profitable private investment overseas. But remittance difficulties are a problem, as are current commercial debts. Glad to know of specific investment opportunities in SL.

ECGD [IF RAISED]

3. Short- and medium-term cover unfortunately restricted because of delays in transfer of foreign exchange (at present 5-6 months). In these circumstances, like all other credit insurers, ECGD have no option under world-wide rules but to take cautious view at present.

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4(a) TRADE: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The UK is still SL's major trading partner. We supplied 20% of the country's imports in 1979; and bought one-half of her exports. Our exports are mainly foodstuffs, industrial raw materials and machinery. Our imports include diamonds, bauxite and agricultural produce (eg coffee, cocoa).
2. 36% increase in our exports so far this year attributable to OAU conference expenditure. However, short-term prospects are poor because of the depressed state of the SL economy. In the medium- and longer-term, SL's agricultural and mining potential could lead to a better economic performance. Reported discovery recently of apparently large deposits of gold have raised hopes of life-line.
3. Latest figures available show the value of UK investment in SL to be about £18.5m. The main British companies operating there include UAC, Shell, BP, Selection Trust, British-American Tobacco, British Caledonian, Elder Dempster, Guardian Royal Exchange, Standard Chartered and Barclays Banks.
4. ECGD short-term cover available only against Confirmed Irrevocable Letter of Credit. Medium- and long-term cover not available since 1976 because of debt reschedulings and SL's poor economic performance. There have already been two debt reschedulings in 1978 and 1980 covering 1975 to 1981 maturities. A third rescheduling may prove necessary. BP and Shell have both had difficulties recently in getting paid for oil deliveries.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980
BRIEF NO 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS
4(b): AID

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Understand present programme going quite well. Despite cuts in overall Aid Programme, hope to do more now with new aid of £3.5m to be spent in next three years on Bailey bridging for roads up-country and perhaps road-making equipment. Trust things will now go smoothly.
2. Despite our own financial problems, we wrote off £10.4m of aid ^{debt} last year.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

4(b) AID: ESSENTIAL FACTS

PRESENT PROGRAMME

1. Emphasis currently on technical cooperation mainly manpower assistance (ie supplementation of salaries of British staff in public services and university; provision of directly-recruited Technical Cooperation Officers and Consultants, particularly in agriculture and education; and training in UK).
2. This assistance complements small capital aid programme of £1.8m under the UK/Sierra Leone Development Loan/Grant 1974. It is now all committed. Under Retrospective Terms Adjustment Agreement 1979 the loan converted to a grant (and £10.4m of existing aid debt cancelled).
3. Two capital projects financed under the grant still active. One an Agricultural Extension Training Scheme, only started this year after very long planning period. Object is to increase quality of training of Agricultural Extension Staff at technician and instructor level. The second project under way for 2-3 years provides for static and mobile workshops for repair and maintenance of farm machinery.
4. Notable features of Technical Cooperation Programme are assistance to the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board, Guma Valley Water Corporation and a TCO Principal for the Para-Medical Training School at Bo (part of the Integrated Medical Education and Training Project financed by the Canadian International Development Agency and the European Development Fund). Trained personnel from the school will concentrate on preventative health measures mainly in rural areas. Technical Cooperation programme also finances about 100 trainees in the UK annually. A team to review our manpower assistance is to visit Sierra Leone in December.
5. Aid expenditure in the calendar year 1979 was £1.64m: Technical Cooperation £1.55m and capital aid £0.09m. In 1980 expenditure about £2m.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

6. SL is priority country for VSO. Intends to continue at the present level. About 50 volunteers in SL in teaching, agriculture, rural development and health.

/COMMONWEALTH

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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

7. CDC are involved in projects with Guma Valley Water Company and SL Investments Ltd. With other potential investors, CDC is seeking ways to help agricultural investment. Actively considering an investment of £2.5m in rubber development project.

FUTURE AID

8. Ministers have recently agreed that an offer of new capital aid of £3.5m may be made to the Government of SL, the offer to be made to Pres. Stevens during visit. Aid intended to be spent over period 1981/2-1983/4. How it is to be spent has not been precisely determined but it is likely to be put to development of transport sector. Dr Banya, Minister of Development, having talks at ODA on 6 November. SLG would welcome the provision of Bailey bridging to link up rural feeder roads (good for our steel industry). There is also need for road-building machinery for feeder-road construction. These projects arise from findings of ODA mission to SL late in 1978. Because of cuts in Aid Programme during last 2 years, not possible to carry out more costly recommendations (although we have implemented several of the cheaper ones). SLG has been disappointed by our apparent inaction and compare our efforts unfavourably with that of France in their ex-colonies.

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VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS

4(c) DEFENCE SALES

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Hope our traditionally good links in defence field will be maintained and developed. Glad to continue making places available on training courses in UK for members of SL armed forces. Part of cost can be met under UK Military Training Assistance Scheme (UKMTAS).
2. Understand a contract has recently been signed with UK firm for a Fast Patrol Craft.

4(c) DEFENCE SALES: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. The SL Armed Forces are properly modest in size: overall strength of army is about 3,000 (about 140 officers). There is no separate navy or air force. Most recent (1977-8) sales of UK equipment consisted of Racal radios, Bedford trucks and Land Rovers. A British entrepreneur, claiming to be acting on behalf of SL Government, recently asked for a quotation from RSAF Enfield for sizeable supply of rifles and pistols.
2. SL makes good use of her small allocation (currently £50,000) of UKMTAS funds. In 1979/80, nine members of the Armed Forces attended training courses in the UK. SL is finding it more and more difficult to find sufficient funds for UK courses, which now have to be paid in advance.
3. Major item of Defence Sales interest is a Tracker Fast Patrol Craft Mk II manufactured by Fairey Marine. Although Fairey have received signed contract to the value of £600,000 from the Port Authority, payment not yet made. Craft due for acceptance in December.

VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 6-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS

4(d) OVERSEAS STUDENT FEES

POINTS TO MAKE [DEFENSIVE ONLY]

1. Much regret fees for University students entering first time 1980 to be raised to realistic level. Forced on HMG as part of overall economies. All Commonwealth countries equally affected.

4(d) OVERSEAS STUDENTS FEES: ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. SL has about 1,000 students in British universities. Possibly about two to three hundred new entrants will have to pay full rate this year. Major number of students affected by the decision are evidently from Commonwealth. Cases of particularly poor countries, like SL, to be studied as part of the overall survey of the effects of new measures.

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BRIEF NO 4: BILATERAL RELATIONS
4(e) OTHER ISSUES
POINTS TO MAKE

KISSY JETTY [DEFENSIVE]

1. Grateful for SLG agreement to our proposals to surrender Admiralty leased lands at Kissy (with exception of two oil tanks and the land on which they stand). Understand SL Ministers are having separate talks with Ministry of Defence about the details. Keen to reach mutually agreeable solution as soon as possible.

BBC [DEFENSIVE]

2. As Pres. Stevens knows, HMG does not control BBC. One of prices of free press and radio is that they sometimes go off the rails. (Indeed, a BBC reporter who happens to be from SL has just caused us problems in two other African countries). But in general, BBC is much respected for its objectivity and freedom. Hope minor irritations are forgotten.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

4(e) OTHER ISSUES: ESSENTIAL FACTS

KISSY JETTY [DEFENSIVE]

1. We have been warned that Pres. Stevens will raise this point, about which he feels strongly.
2. An oil jetty was built by the Admiralty in Freetown in 1928 to help bunker RN ships. Little used after the war; and progressively fell into disrepair in the 60s and 70s. Replaced early in 1979 by a modern jetty constructed by a Dutch firm (for an astronomical sum).
3. Pres. Stevens has long believed that the MOD should have either repaired the old jetty or contributed to the cost of a new one. But RN interest in Freetown is now minimal: extensive lands leased by the Admiralty at Independence in 1961 are in the process of being surrendered. Only exception is two oil storage tanks for emergency use by RN. Outstanding fees to the MOD by the Ports Authority will be waived; and the SLG know that they can realistically expect no other further contribution to the (exorbitant) cost of the new jetty. The SL Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry are to have separate discussions with Mr Luce and Mr Speed about the details.

BBC

4. Pres. Stevens complained to our High Commissioner in 1977 and expressed concern to a British Parliamentary delegation last year over 'the BBC's constant negative reporting of events in SL'. Several members of the BBC African Service have recently visited SL: according to the Head of Service, BBC/SL relations are again very good. BBC say their audience in SL is among biggest per capita in the world. An SL national (Hylton Fyle) presents the daily 'Network Africa' programme, widely heard in SL.
5. But BBC reporter of SL origin (John Coker) recently arrested etc in both Ghana and Zimbabwe!

RESTRICTED

VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 5: PERSONALITY NOTES

HE DR SIAKA PROBYN STEVENS GCRSL DCL

President and Leader of the All People's Congress.

Officially born 24 August 1905 but generally supposed to be older. A Limba, of mixed Limba/Vai parentage. Brought up in Creole surroundings. Speaks fluent Mende and Temne but in public normally speaks either English or Krio. Educated at American (EUB) Mission Schools in Moyamba and Freetown. Attended Ruskin College at Oxford 1947-49. Served with Sierra Leone Police Force 1923-30, retiring with rank of Sergeant. Employed at Marampa iron ore mines 1931-46. Founder member of the United Mine Workers Union, and General Secretary for 15 years. Secretary-General Sierra Leone Trades Union Congress 1948-50. Served on Moyamba District Council for several years and on Freetown City Council for six years. Mayor, Freetown City Council 1964-65 being unseated after re-election in November 1965, following judgement given in Supreme Court that election was null and void on procedural grounds. (This was a political manoeuvre by the Margai Government). Awarded Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law by University of Sierra Leone in February 1969 and has subsequently used the title. Became Prime Minister on the return to civilian rule in 1968 and President two days after Sierra Leone became a Republic in April 1971.

Appointed Sierra Leone's first Minister of Lands, Mines and Labour 1951-56. Successfully contested 1957 elections as an SLPP candidate but deprived of seat for election malpractice. In 1958 joined Mr (now Sir) Albert Margai and several other SLPP defectors in forming People's National Party of which he became General Secretary. Attended 1960 Constitutional Conference in London but alone of the Sierra Leone delegation refused to sign the Conference Report, objecting both to the proposed Defence Agreement with Britain and to the decision not to hold a General Election before Independence. He also strenuously opposed PNP participation in the United Front Government formed after the 1960 Conference under Sir Milton Margai's leadership and was expelled by his party. Stevens then founded the 'Elections before Independence Movement' out of which grew the All People's Congress, of which he has always been Leader.

Along with several other leading members of his party, Stevens was imprisoned at the time of Independence under emergency powers invoked by the Government to counter APC threats to sabotage the celebrations. The APC adopted the pan-African, anti-colonial attitude of Ghana and Guinea at the time and were believed while in opposition (1962-67) to have received financial and other help from both these countries as well as from Cairo and Iron Curtain sources. Stevens has visited several Communist capitals, but he has never been a Communist and whilst maintaining an East-West balance to get all possible aid he has come increasingly to mistrust the Soviet Union.

/Stevens



Stevens is the most able of Sierra Leone politicians, and achieved his main political ambition when he became President of the Republic in April 1971. He has a strong personality, concealed usually behind a rather impassive exterior. He is a lucid and persuasive political speaker who puts himself over well at grass-roots level and a tough and pragmatic politician, with a particular flair for playing off the conflicting factions within his Cabinet and the Party against each other. Although he has the Cabinet firmly under control he can be indecisive and he seems also to be easily panicked on occasion, when he takes precipitate action without due consideration. He can be charming, and has a good sense of humour, but also has an almost ungovernable temper when aroused.

The disturbances at Freetown University in January 1977 were a severe blow to his authority. He nevertheless steered the APC to victory in the elections which those disturbances forced upon him. Visited London for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the same year. He was elected President for a second term of office on 20 April 1976, and brought about the introduction of a One-Party State in 1978, when his term of office was renewed for a further 7 years. In spite of his age he tends to take more and more upon himself. Little can be done without his authority and everybody, including the Vice-Presidents, go in awe of him. Contractor finance deals, involving profits for his personal bank account, have added appreciably to the country's economic problems.

Talks increasingly of retiring, presumably after his Chairmanship of OAU, 'to the Hills' (he is building a large house on a Freetown hill-top) and becoming an eminence-grise on the lines of Bustamente of Jamaica.

Married with several grown children.



VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER

BRIEF NO 5: PERSONALITY NOTES

HON DR ABDULAI CONTEH

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Born 5 August 1945 at Pepel, Northern Province. A Susu. Education locally at Primary and Secondary Schools and Albert Academy, Freetown. 1966 Kings College, London, obtained the LL B degree with Honours 1969. Barrister at Law 1970 (Lincoln's Inn). Master of Law 1971. PhD Kings College, Cambridge 1974; obtained several academic prizes.

In 1974 he became State Counsel at Law Officers' Department. From 1975-77 he was a lecturer at Fourah Bay. In May 1977 he was returned unopposed for Kambia West constituency and appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A considerable athlete who represented Cambridge at athletics and appeared at the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica. He now has some consequent back trouble which requires regular treatment.

It is still not clear how he was induced to run for election. He was reportedly opposed to the APC and was in private legal practice with a Creole named Terry who continued after the election to present SLPP electoral petitions in the High Court. Was originally appointed Attorney-General but exchanged posts with Francis Minah when it was discovered that he was time-barred from serving as Attorney-General.

An intelligent and agreeable but clearly ambitious man who since his election has taken an increasing part in OAU affairs. Clearly relishes his role in Sierra Leone's Chairmanship of the OAU. He tends to tailor his attitudes to his audience, for example making unhelpful remarks in the OAU about Rhodesia, but tempering them in conversation with us. A possible future Head of State, with President Stevens' covert backing. The latter has described him as having the necessary 'charisma'. His tribal background goes against him.

Married with children.



VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER

BRIEF NO 5: PERSONALITY NOTES

HON DR SAMA SIAMA BANYA OR

Minister of Development and Economic Planning.

Born Kailahun District 10 June 1931. A Kissi speaking Mende rather than a Kissi. Educated at Bo School Bristol University and West London Hospital Medical School MRCS (Eng) LRCP (Lond). Medical Officer in the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health in 1963. Senior Medical Officer. Private practice in 1968. Left the SLPP for the APC in about 1974 in the apparently sincere belief that only the APC was capable of integrating the various disparate elements in the country. Stood for Parliament as an APC Candidate for Kailahun South in the General Elections of May 1977 but was defeated after being ambushed and shot in the head, allegedly by his political opponent. One, and possibly two, of his brothers were killed in the incident. Returned as unopposed APC candidate for Kailahun South in February 1978 following unseating of the SLPP incumbent. Appointed Resident Minister Eastern Province April 1978.

A member of one of the ruling families in Kailahun; respected for his integrity but not particularly popular among his own (SLPP) people on account of his defection to the APC. He has a private clinic in Kenema.

One of the few ministers genuinely interested in the future of Sierra Leone, rather than self-interest. Probably incorrupt. Occasionally mentioned as a future Head of State. A pleasing prospect, but his tribal background and diffidence make it unlikely.

Married in February 1977 to Kadi Bangura. Previous wife died in 1975. One child.



VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 5: PERSONALITY NOTES

HON SOLOMON ATHANASIOS JAMES PRATT, CR

Minister of Trade and Industry.

Born at Bathurst (now Banjul) The Gambia, on 25 December 1921. Of Creole descent. Educated at Sierra Leone Grammar School, Fourah Bay College, Durham University, St Catherine's, Oxford, the LSE, and the Inner Temple. Holds degrees of MA, BCL, BSc Honours, MSc Economics, LL B and Bachelor of Letters, and Diploma in Agricultural Economics.

Formerly a lawyer in private practice, General Manager of the Railway and the former SLPP Government's unofficial economic adviser. From 1952 to 1958 was on the staff of the ILO in Geneva. Attended the UN General Assembly in 1963, is President of the SL United Nations Association and once led the SL Delegation at the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva. Appointed Minister of External Affairs in May 1971.

Originally close to Sir Albert Margai and the SLPP Government, he broke with both and stood, successfully, as an APC candidate in the 1967 abortive general elections for the Mountain Rural District near Freetown, where he lives in the village of Regent. During the NRC period Pratt was close to Siaka Stevens and subsequently led the APC team in the Civilian Rule Committee. He became Minister of Development in Stevens' Government when civilian rule was restored in April 1968 but was dropped from the Government in April 1969. Appointed successively Minister of External Affairs in May 1971 and Minister of Development and Economic Planning 1973. 1975 became Attorney-General. Appointed Minister of Development and Economic Planning in 1977 and Minister of the Interior in August 1979. Minister of Trade and Industry since February 1980.

Has intelligence and ability - of his broad spectrum of degrees - but he is regarded by most people who have dealt with him as a slippery customer, self-centred and 'too clever by half'. Unhelpful during his involvement in Delco (iron ore) liquidation proceedings 1976/77.

Married with a number of children. One of his main hobbies is singing and he is choirmaster at his local church - St Charles, Regent.

VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS
SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER

BRIEF NO 5: PERSONALITY NOTES

HON BRIGADIER JOSEPH SAIDU MOMOH, OR OBE

Force Commander, RSLMF, and Minister of State.

Born 26 January ¹⁹³⁷ in Bombali District, Northern Province. A Limba. Joined the army as a private in August 1958 when the RSLMF was part of the Royal West African Frontier Force. He attended Regular Officers Training School in Ghana and School of Infantry at Hythe. In 1960 he attended another cadet course in Nigeria and, in 1962, he completed the course at Mons. From this he was commissioned. He was imprisoned at the time of the mutiny in 1968, was released on 18 November that year, and reinstated within the army to become the Commanding Officer of the First Battalion RSLMF.

Momoh is of the same tribe as President Stevens. During the national crisis in October 1970, when the newly formed UDP was banned and a state of emergency declared, Momoh proved an enthusiastic supporter of the measures which the government ordered the army to take. These included the arrest of some former cabinet ministers and numerous other influential persons. Momoh was aware, at the time, that these arrests were illegal but he genuinely believed that they were necessary to maintain law and order in Sierra Leone. Took over Acting Command of the RSLMF when Brigadier Bangura was jailed in March 1971. Made substantive Colonel and appointed Force Commander on 29 September 1971. Promoted to Brigadier after the 1973 elections, a rise from Lieutenant to Brigadier in eleven years. Together with the Commissioner of Police, he was appointed an MP and Minister of State by President Stevens in 1974.

He seems to enjoy his parliamentary responsibilities immensely but is unlikely to be seriously interested in a political career. Would not himself lead a coup except, possibly, if S I Korma, First Vice-President, whom he dislikes, took over the Presidency, but he might not be able to restrain some of his junior officers.

Momoh was a keen athlete in his youth and still plays tennis regularly, but he has gone to fat lately and become something of an old woman. He must share the blame for the widespread corruption, and consequent property ownership, among the senior officers of the army but may not himself be as corrupt as some.

A good mixer and more conscientious than some about his social commitments. Married with one daughter.

VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS
OF SIERRA LEONE, 5-7 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 5: PERSONALITY NOTES

HE VICTOR EMMANUEL SUMNER

High Commissioner of Sierra Leone.

Born 17 April 1929 in Freetown. A Sherbro. Educated locally (Fourah Bay College Teacher Training Department 1950-1951) and in the United States and Canada; Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio 1955 (BA), Laval University, Quebec, 1959-61 (MA).

Appointed to Sierra Leone Commonwealth and Foreign Service in December 1961. Posted to Permanent Mission in New York as Third Secretary. 1963-64 took course in diplomacy at the Institute of International Affairs Columbia University, New York. In 1965 took courses in Protocol and International Relations at the French Foreign Ministry and the Institute of Higher International Studies of the University of Paris. 1965 Chief of Protocol. 1966 posted to the Prime Minister's Office. 1968 promoted Assistant Secretary to the Prime Minister. Posted as Counsellor to the Sierra Leone Embassy, Washington 1969-70 and to the Sierra Leone Embassy, Bonn, December 1971 - January 1972. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1977. September 1980 Sierra Leone High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Competent and helpful but diffident.

Married with three children.

Mr. Whitmore 1

Noted,
H. J.
Mr.



for info:
e.f.
3110.

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Next Tuesday, 4 November,
you have President Stevens
of Sierra Leone arriving at
0900 hours for the Guard of
Honour. Does this mean that
you want the breakfast
cancelled for a second week
running?

No. I will leave at 8.50

29 October 1980

ack

cc: Mr. Whitmore

VISIT OF
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
(to be read in conjunction with programme attached)

Monday 3 November Arrival.

- 0905 Mr M H Morgan, High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Mr N Coppel, Escort Officer, Brigadier J A C Cowan, Secretary, Government Hospitality Fund and official entourage will arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, de Havilland Suite
- 0910 The Sierra Leone High Commissioner Mr V Sumner will arrive.
- 0915 Mr Richard Luce MP Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will arrive.
- 0920 The Lord Lyell, Lord in Waiting to Her Majesty The Queen will arrive.
- 0950 The President will arrive on flight BA 613. As soon as the aircraft doors open a representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party to the aircraft. The Sierra Leone High Commissioner will board the aircraft and escort the President to the tarmac. The following will be at the aircraft steps (in order):
- The Lord Lyell, Lord in Waiting to Her Majesty The Queen
Mr Richard Luce MP Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr M H Morgan, British High Commissioner, Sierra Leone,
Brig. J A C Cowan Secretary, Government Hospitality Fund
N Coppel, Escort Officer,
Representative, British Airports Authority.
- The Lord Lyell will greet the President on behalf of The Queen and will take him down the receiving line. The party will then proceed to the de Havilland Suite, where the official entourage will greet The President. The Sierra Leone High Commissioner will present members of his staff and their wives.

Transport

Cars are provided for the official party and seating arrangements are described at Annex 1.

Tuesday 4 November

Procedure at the Guard of Honour ceremony is described at Annex 2.

All members of the official party will be present at Horseguards Parade. When The President accompanied by Mr G E Taylor departs with the Prime Minister for 10 Downing Street the other members of the official party will return to the hotel.

Wednesday 5 November

Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The following will also be present:

Sierra Leone

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Development & Economic Planning
Minister of Trade & Industry
High Commissioner

United Kingdom

Head of West African Department, FCO
High Commissioner
Private Secretary

Talks with the Prime Minister

The following will also be present:

Sierra Leone

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Development & Economic Planning
Minister of Trade & Industry
High Commissioner

United Kingdom

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
High Commissioner
Private Secretary

Visits Section
Protocol and Conference Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

30 October 1980

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

1 November

GATWICK TO CLARIDGE'S

- Car 1 The Hon Dr A Conteh
 HE Mr V Sumner
 Mr N Coppel
- Car 2 The Hon Dr S S Banya
 Mr M H Morgan
 The Hon Justice Omrie Golley
- Car 3 The Hon Mr S A J Pratt
 Madame Veronica
 Mr Makura Konta
 Mr G Lamin
- Car 4 The Hon Brig. J S Momoh
 Mrs F Collier
 Mr Jenner Metcalf -Cole
 Master B Davies

3 November

CLARIDGES TO LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT

- Car 1 The Hon Dr A Conteh
 Mr M H Morgan
 Escort Officer
- Car 2 The Hon Dr S S Banya
 The Hon Justice Omrie Golley
 Madame Veronica
 Mr Makura Konta
- Car 3 The Hon Mr S A J Pratt
 Mr P M Johnson
 MR G. LAMIN
 MRS F. COLLIER
- Car 4 The Hon Brig. J S Momoh
 Mr Jenner Metcalf -Cole
 Miss C Wright
 Master B Davies

LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT TO CLARIDGES

- Car P HE The President
 HE Mr V Sumner
 Mr N Coppel
 Det. Insp. Hazlett

LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT TO CLARIDGES CONT'D

Car 1 The Hon Dr A Conteh
 Mr M ~~F~~ Morgan
 Escort Officer
 Det. Sgt Finnimore

Car 2 The Hon Dr S S Banya
 The Hon Justice Omrie Golley
 Madame Veronica
 Brig. J A C Cowan

Car 3 The Hon Mr S A J Pratt
 Mr Makura Konta
 Mr P M Johnson
 Mr G Lamin

Car 4 The Hon Brig. J S Momoh
 Mr G E Taylor
 Mr G S K Banya
 Mrs F Collier

Car 5 Mr J Metcalfe-Cole
 Miss C Wright
 Master B Davies

Transport arrangements for the remainder of the visit will be issued later.

GUARD OF HONOUR - PROCEDURE

1. At 0850 hours members of the President's entourage will arrive on the parade ground by car and wait near the colour points (see diagram attached)
2. At 0855 hours the Prime Minister will arrive on Horse Guards through the Garden Gate of No 10 Downing Street. She will be met at the Gate by Major General H D A Langley MBE, Major General Commanding the Household Division and General Officer Commanding London District. He will be accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel R J Corbett, Irish Guards, Brigade Major The Household Division. The Major General will then escort the Prime Minister to the Saluting base ready to receive President Stevens.
3. At 0900 hours President Stevens will arrive on Horse Guards Parade and will be greeted by a Guard of Honour found by 1st Battalion Irish Guards under the command of Major B (Brian) W F Holt, with the Regimental Colour, the Pipes and Drums of the Battalion, and the Band of the Irish Guards.
4. Once the Prime Minister has welcomed President Stevens, the President will take his place on the saluting base, between the two Colour points. The Prime Minister should stand on his right and slightly behind him. After the Guard Commander has presented his Guard of Honour to the President, the Major General will accompany the President and the Guard Commander on the inspection. The Prime Minister should remain in the vicinity of the Colour Points with the Brigade Major until the inspection is completed, and the Major General has accompanied the President back to the Saluting base. The Prime Minister will then accompany President Stevens and a member of his entourage to the Garden Gate.
5. Other members of the President's entourage will then proceed to their cars which will be waiting by the police sentry box near the Garden Entrance to No 10.
6. Meanwhile the Major General and the Brigade Major will have taken their leave of the President and will authorise the dispersal of the Guard of Honour once the President has entered No 10 Downing Street.

WET WEATHER PROGRAMME

In the event of wet weather the Parade will not be cancelled. The programme will continue as scheduled up to the point where the inspection of the Guard of Honour should begin. If there is heavy rain at that point in the programme and the President does not wish to inspect the Guard of Honour the Prime Minister should lead President Stevens back to No 10.

HORSE GUARDS BUILDING

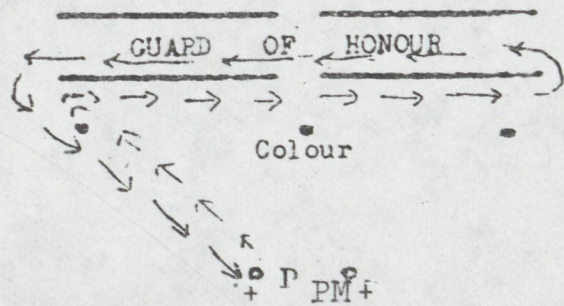
Lord Roberts

BAND and CORPS of DRUMS



Chinese mortar

LEGEND
 + Colour points
 P. President
 PM Prime Minister



10

DOWNING STREET

GARDEN ENTRANCE

Carriageway

OFFICIAL ENTOURAGE AND HIGH COMMISSION STAFF

Barriers

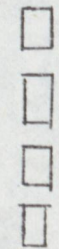
Barriers

Cars wait for entourage

APPROACH ROUTE FOR CARS

Horse Guards Parade - South Side

Horse Guards Approach Road



DISTRIBUTION (of programme and administrative arrangements)

PS to Her Majesty The Queen (2)

10 Downing Street

PS to the Prime Minister (2)
Press Office (1)

Sierra Leone High Commission (15)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Private Secretary (2)
PS/Mr Luce (2)
PS/PUS (1)
Mr D M Day (1)
Sir Leonard Allinson (1)
Mr A C D S MacRae (1)
Mr C A Hamilton, West African Department (6)
News Department (3)
Commonwealth Co-ordination Department (1)
Security Department (1)
Resident Clerk (1)
Protocol and Conference Department (8)

Government Hospitality Fund

Brigadier J A C Cowan (1)
Mr C Taylor (1)
Mr M Snell (3)

205712

Headquarters
Household Division
Horse Guards
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AX

01-930 4466 Ext: 2495
Clerks Ext: 2497

Officer Commanding
Irish Guards (2)
1st Battalion Irish Guards (2)

21 October 1980

GUARD OF HONOUR - PRESIDENT OF SIERRA LEONE
TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 1980

1. His Excellency Dr Siaka Stevens, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, is to begin an official visit to Her Majesty's Government on Tuesday 4th November 1980.

2. A Guard of Honour of 96 Rank and File is to be provided by 1st Battalion Irish Guards, with the Regimental Colour, the Band of the Regiment, and the Pipes and Drums of the Battalion, on Horse Guards Parade.

3. * Position. The Guard of Honour is to form up on the South side of Horse Guards Parade, facing West, with the centre in front of the Chinese Mortar. The Band is to be positioned on the right flank of the Guard of Honour with the Pipes and Drums in rear of the Band.

4. Timings.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| a. Depart CLRD GREAT SCOTLAND YARD | 0843 hours |
| b. In position | 0850 hours |
| c. Arrival of the Major General | 0857 hours |
| d. Arrival of the President | 0900 hours |

5. Route. The following route is to be used:

GREAT SCOTLAND YARD
WHITEHALL
HORSE GUARDS ARCH
HORSE GUARDS PARADE

6. Procedure.

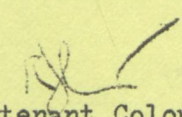
a. The President will arrive by motor car. After formal introductions he will take up a position central to and facing the Guard of Honour, between two Colour Points.

b. The Captain of the Guard of Honour is to order "ROYAL SALUTE, PRESENT ARMS" and the Band is to play the Sierra Leone National Anthem. The Colour is to be lowered.

c. The Captain is then to order "SHOULDER ARMS" and "ORDER ARMS" and is to go forward and report his Guard of Honour in English. The Ensign is to remain at the carry.

2/.....

- d. The Captain is to accompany the President on his inspection of the front of each rank. The President will salute the Colour as he passes behind it, and the Captain is to turn his head and eyes off to the right. During the inspection the Band is to play incidental music.
 - e. After the Inspection the President will be escorted to No 10 Downing Street by way of the Garden Entrance and the Captain of the Guard of Honour is to obtain leave from The Major General to march off.
7. The Guard of Honour is to return to CLRD by the outward route reversed.
8. Administration.
- a. The Guard of Honour, Band, and Pipes and Drums are to report to the CLRD Great Scotland Yard by no later than 0800 hours.
 - b. The Garrison Sergeant Major is to arrange sufficient changing accommodation in CLRD.
 - c. Having debussed all transport is to park on the North Side of Horse Guards until called forward after the ceremony.
9. Rehearsal. A Rehearsal is to be held at 1430 hours on Monday, 3 November 1980, the simulated arrival of the President being at 1440 hours.
10. Dress
- a. Rehearsal: No. 2 Dress, Atholl Grey Greatcoats.
Forage Caps.
 - b. Parade: Guard of Honour Order, Greatcoats.


Lieutenant Colonel
Brigade Major
Household Division

Copy to:

Headquarters London District

A
Provost
PR
Camp
GSM
ADC
Camp Commandant, Chelsea Barracks

Metropolitan Police

A8 Traffic Branch (2)
A8 Operational Branch (2)
A Division
Mounted Branch

Ministry of Defence

Protocol Office
PS 12(A) - The Captain of the Guard of Honour will be
Major B W F Holt (Brian)

FLS(A)

Superintendent Royal Parks

DOE



PH
Sierra Leone.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 September, 1980.

Visit of President Stevens

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 22 September and has agreed to call on President Stevens at 0915 on 4 November.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roderic Lyne.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Miss Peggy Metcalfe, O.B.E.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 September 1980

Michael Alexander Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Prime Minister

*Agree to call on
President Stevens at
his hotel, after your
breakfast on Tuesday
Nov 4?*

Dear Michael

*Yes
no*

VISIT OF PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE

MA 24/IX

We discussed the reception arrangements for President Stevens who is visiting the UK as a Guest of Government in November. The official programme will not start until Wednesday, 5 November but the President intends to arrive at Gatwick on British Caledonian flight 352 at 1725 hours on Monday 3 November so that he can have a day's rest. We consider it appropriate, therefore, that the arrival should be low-key and are proposing that a junior FCO Minister meet him at Gatwick as well, of course, as The Queen's representative.

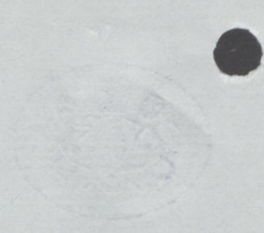
It would however be appropriate for the Prime Minister to meet President Stevens as soon as possible after his arrival and you thought she might be able to pay a brief courtesy call on him at the hotel (he will be staying at Claridges) the morning following his arrival. I should be grateful for confirmation that this proposal is acceptable to the Prime Minister and that 0915 hours on 4 November is convenient.

Yours ever

P T Metcalfe

P T Metcalfe (Miss)
Protocol and Conference Department

24 SEP 1980



Sierra Leone
1) BF 28/10/80 for briefing
2) BF 4/11/80 for meeting

25 July 1980

Visit by President Stevens of
Sierra Leone

Thank you for your letter of 25 July about the visit of President Stevens to this country. Virtually the only time within the bracket you mention which would be convenient for the Prime Minister would be the morning of Wednesday 5 November. The Prime Minister could receive President Stevens at 12 noon and offer him lunch thereafter, as you suggest.

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sc.



10 DOWNING STREET

Wednesday 5 Nov

11.30 Talks

1300 lunch.

The alternative.

ES.

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 July 1980

Dear Michael,

Visit by President Stevens of Sierra Leone

In your letter of 31 March to Paul Lever, you informed us that the Prime Minister had agreed that President Stevens of Sierra Leone should be invited to pay a working visit to Britain in the autumn, subject to agreement on the dates. The invitation was formally conveyed by Mr Luce when he visited Freetown in May. During a private visit to London in June, the Vice-President told Mr Luce that President Stevens would prefer September or October for climatic reasons; but our High Commissioner subsequently explained to the Foreign Minister that we had suggested November/December for the visit because there was no period earlier in the autumn when both The Queen and the Prime Minister would be in London. The Foreign Minister told the High Commissioner on 14 July that the President would like a November visit, preferring the first half of the month if possible.

We now need to agree on dates which can be offered to the President. A principal part of the programme we envisage will be talks at No 10 and some entertainment offered by the Prime Minister. Talks starting at 12 noon followed by luncheon would seem to be the most convenient arrangement. I should be grateful if you could suggest which dates would be convenient for the Prime Minister.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

RESTRICTED

FILE

VLB

Sierra Leone

31 March 1980

Sierra Leone

The Prime Minister has seen Roderick Lyne's letter to me of 28 March about the proposal that President Stevens of Sierra Leone should pay a working visit to Britain in the autumn. The Prime Minister agrees that, subject to agreement on the dates, such a visit should take place. She has commented, in view of President Stevens' remarks about aid, that we have no further funds for aid.

~~N J SANDERS~~

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

sl



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 March 1980

PRIME MINISTER

Agree a visit

in principle?

MJS

28/3

Dear Michael,

Open to - But we have
no further funds for
aid? - no

SIERRA LEONE

During his call on Lord Carrington in June last year Dr Abdulai Conteh, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, said that President Stevens was anxious to pay a working visit to Britain at an early date. Lord Carrington welcomed this proposal in principle but pointed out that such a visit would require careful preparation in view of the President's position as an elder statesman in Africa and the Commonwealth.

President Stevens, who is 74, has been President since 1971 when the country became a Republic. He was Prime Minister for the previous three years. Although he is open to criticism for the ruthless manner in which he has on occasion dealt with his opponents and also for his mismanagement of the economy, Stevens has guided Sierra Leone through a potentially turbulent period of its history with some skill. Following the introduction of a One-Party Constitution in 1978, President Stevens has called for a spirit of national reconciliation and has appointed former political opponents to government office. While at pains to be even-handed in his relations with the East and West, Sierra Leone has generally adopted policies which have been favourable to Western interests.

We have been trying to add more substance to our relations. Two visits by Dr Conteh last year as a guest of HMG were the first Ministerial contact for several years. Sierra Leone has close professional, cultural, educational and sentimental links with this country and we still have a valuable commercial interest. President Stevens retains a deep respect for Britain and its institutions, particularly the Monarchy, but he has commented that we seem to have lost interest in his country, particularly over the question of aid.

A visit later this year would be particularly timely because the President will take up the Chairmanship of the Organisation of African Unity in June. Largely because of this, Sierra Leone has taken much greater interest in African affairs over the last two years, and it is important that we do all we can to encourage the President to maintain his comparatively moderate outlook.

/Lord Carrington

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



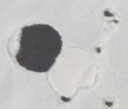
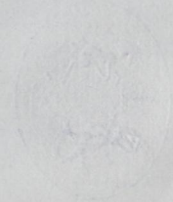
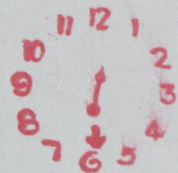
Lord Carrington, therefore, recommends that President Stevens should be invited to come here during his year of office as Chairman of the OAU. At this stage we have no precise dates to propose, though we incline towards a visit in November. If the Prime Minister agrees in principle that President Stevens should come here we would propose to discuss the timing of a visit with the Sierra Leoneans.

Lord Carrington also proposes that Mr Luce should visit Freetown in May 1980. This would be the first visit by a British Minister to Sierra Leone for several years and would enable us to get our point of view across to President Stevens before he becomes OAU Chairman.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)

28 MAR 1980





With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Under via

you

*Key
/8*

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH

RESTRICTED

Lu. Leoni

S. No. 10

[Handwritten signature]

RESTRICTED

FM F C O 151016Z AUG 79
TO IMMEDIATE FREETOWN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 55 OF 15 AUGUST

YOUR TELNO 66: PROPOSED VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS.

1. PLEASE EXPLAIN TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE THAT A CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER ON DATE SUGGESTED WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE. PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY IS FULL ON 15 SEPTEMBER AND THEREAFTER SHE WILL BE OUT OF LONDON FOR A WEEK.
2. PARA 4 OF TUR. WE DID NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH CONTEH WHEN HE PASSED THROUGH LONDON.

CARRINGTON

FILES
WAD
PACD
NEWS D
OJD
PUSD
PS
PS/HPS
PS/MR LUCE
SIR. A. DUFF
MR WILLIAMS
MR WILLSON

RESTRICTED



With the compliments of

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

as per your request
QA 22/8

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
LONDON, SW1A 2AH

GRS 451

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DE BY FCO 091300Z AUGUST

FM FREETOWN 091045Z AUG 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 86 OF 09 AUGUST

MAJOHNSON'S LETTER JWS 026/2 OF 23 JULY: VISIT OF PRESIDENT STEVENS.

1. ABDUL KARIM, SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, ASKED ME TO CALL THIS MORNING. HE EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS WOULD BE ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN HAVANA (3-7 SEPTEMBER) AND HAD THEREAFTER ARRANGED AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICES IN BRUSSELS FROM 13-14 SEPTEMBER. INTERVENING PERIOD IS LIKELY TO BE SPENT IN PRIVATE VISIT TO UNITED STATES.
2. THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED A WISH AFTER BRUSSELS TO SPEND "ONE OR TWO DAYS IN LONDON" AND TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER. KARIM BELIEVED THIS SUGGESTION HAD ARISEN OUT OF SOMETHING SAID IN LUSAKA. AMONG SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSLY MENTIONED THE KISSY JETTY. KARIM ASKED WHETHER, SUPPOSING PRESIDENT STEVENS MOVED TO LONDON ON 15 SEPTEMBER FOR EITHER PRIVATE OR WORKING VISIT, TIME COULD BE FOUND FOR HIM TO SEE MRS THATCHER THE FOLLOWING DAY.
3. I EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMME WAS VERY FULL AND THAT PERIOD IN QUESTION WAS LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY BUSY, BUT IN VIEW OF THE HINTS OF PRE-ARRANGEMENT IN LUSAKA HAD NO OPTION BUT TO PURSUE ENQUIRY. GRATEFUL THEREFORE FOR YOUR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITIES.
4. SIERRA LEONE FOREIGN MINISTER IS BELIEVED TO BE IN LONDON TODAY EN ROUTE FROM LUSAKA TO AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY. YOU MAY WISH TO INVOLVE HIM: IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD IMPRESS ON HIM THE FUTILITY OF PURSUING THE KISSY JETTY ISSUE. I ASSUME THAT THE PRESIDENT, FOR WHOM IN HIS OLD AGE THE JETTY REMAINS AN OBSESSION, IS STILL HOPING TO PERSUADE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO PAY PART OF THE COST. HE HAS NOT HOWEVER RAISED THE MATTER WITH ME IN RECENT INTERVIEWS.

MORGAN

FILES

| | | | |
|--------|------|------------|-------------|
| WAD | PUSD | PS/LPS | SIR A DUFF |
| NEWS D | PCD | PS/MR LUCE | MR WILLIAMS |
| OID | PS | PS/PUS | MR WILLSON |

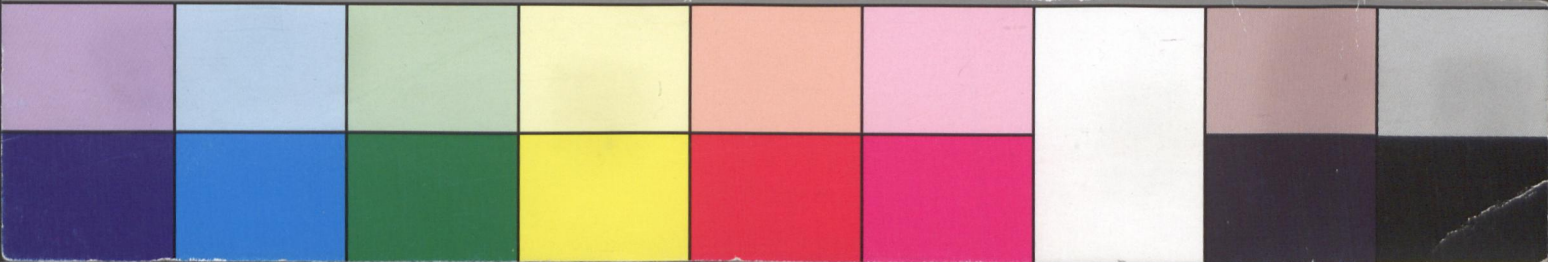
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Inches 1 2 3

Centimetres 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Colour Chart #13

Blue Cyan Green Yellow



A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19

Grey Scale #13

