

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

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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).

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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]