

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

DPA
Sierra Leone

Please find attached for your and SG's information a note from Mr. Pascoe forwarding a memo from Michael von der Schulenburg, Executive Representative for Sierra Leone, detailing the importance of Sierra Leone to the UN in preparation for a possible visit to the country.

Nicholas Haysom
8 October 2009

cc: KWS

→ NH

29-10478

15(10)

Has this been seen by SG?



601

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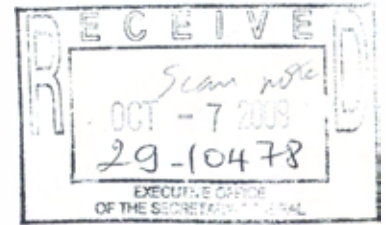
Has this been seen by SG?



69

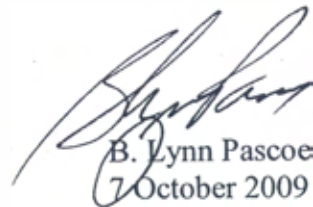
ACTION ✓✓
COPY ✓✓

Note to the Secretary-General

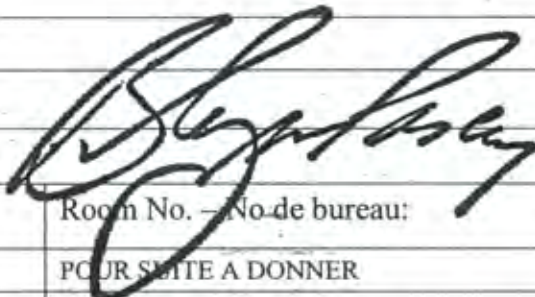


SIERRA LEONE

1. Please find attached, a note from your Executive Representative for Sierra Leone/ Michael von der Schulenburg detailing the importance of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in preparation for a possible visit to the country.
2. I fully concur with his views on Sierra Leone as a success story of transition from civil war to peace building. To make maximum use of a possible visit to the country, we will consult with other departments and propose a few more countries that could be added as part of your traditional Spring African Union Summit trip.


B. Lynn Pascoe
7 October 2009

<u>DCDC</u>	<u>CDC</u>	<u>SG</u>
Recommended Action:	For SG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
SG's attention	For SG's attention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>by</i>	Noted <input type="checkbox"/>
Date: 14/10/09	For SG's information <input type="checkbox"/>	Seen <input type="checkbox"/>
Comment (if applicable):	For SG's signature <input type="checkbox"/>	Signed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Date: 15.10.09	Date: _____
	Comment (if applicable):	

ROUTING SLIP FICHE DE TRANSMISSION		<input type="checkbox"/> Routine	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Immediate
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unclassified	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Strictly Confidential
TO/A: Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet				
CC:				
THROUGH/WISE PAR:				
FROM/DE: B. Lynn Pascoe, USG, DPA				
Date: 7 October 2009		Ext: 3-5055		Room No. – No de bureau: 
FOR ACTION		POUR SUIVE A DONNER		
FOR YOUR ATTENTION		FOR VOTRE ATTENTION		
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION		
FOR APPROVAL / SIGNATURE		POUR APPROBATION / SIGNATURE		
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS		
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE		
RETURN		RETOURNER		

DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED	
EOSG <input type="checkbox"/> OIOS <input type="checkbox"/> OLA <input type="checkbox"/> ODA <input type="checkbox"/> DPKO <input type="checkbox"/> DFS <input type="checkbox"/> OCHA <input type="checkbox"/> DESA <input type="checkbox"/>	
DGACM <input type="checkbox"/> DPI <input type="checkbox"/> DSS <input type="checkbox"/> DM <input type="checkbox"/> UNDP <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

SUBJECT/MESSAGE:

Please find the attached note on a proposed visit of the Secretary-General to Sierra Leone for the Secretary-General's attention.

cc: Mr. Le Roy
Ms. Cheng-Hopkins
Mr. Yoon

Why is Sierra Leone Important for the United Nations?

Brief for the Secretary-General

7/6/09
Excellent!

In preparing for a possible visit of the Secretary-General to Sierra Leone, this paper outlines five reasons why Sierra Leone is important for the United Nations and why Sierra Leone matters for the Secretary-General:

1. Sierra Leone is Important as an Example for Regional Stability

Sierra Leone is important for maintaining wider regional stability. The political situation in West African region continues to be highly unstable and precarious with military coups, political intolerance and inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts re-emerging. Weak governance, corruption and the influx of illicit drugs and international crime have only added to instability in many of Sierra Leone's neighbors. Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and more recently even Nigeria struggle with their internal peace and stability or have stalled on their way to establish a more democratic regimes. In particular, the future of its northern neighbor, Guinea remains, after the military coup in December of 2008, highly uncertain. The recent violence and deterioration of the situation in Guinea is a matter of grave concern with serious regional implications. Even in Liberia, its southern neighbor, old conflict lines that once dominated its civil war seem to reappear.

On the other hand, Sierra Leone was able to leave the horrors of its civil war behind and made impressive progress towards building a peaceful, democratic and more prosperous country. Despite many problems that still persist, Sierra Leone could prevent the reemergence of political violence and instead develop its democratic institutions. Since the formal end of its civil war in 2002, Sierra Leone held two general elections (Presidential and parliamentary) as well as local elections that were praised as free and fair by all national and international observers. In 2007, Sierra Leone was able to democratically transfer power from one political party to another seamlessly and peacefully. Such democratic transition, even in most stable parts of Africa, let alone in a country emerging from a devastating conflict, is a rare occurrence. Sierra Leone sets a good example for other countries in Africa and elsewhere that a peaceful and democratic transition can be achieved with political will of national leaders and support of the international community.

With his visit, the **Secretary-General could draw attention to the model role of Sierra Leone** for other countries as an example that a peaceful and democratic development is possible even in one of the poorest countries of world.

2. Sierra Leone is Important as an Example that Multilateralism Works

Sierra Leone emerged from a civil war and pursued a path of democratic development with the help of the international community. It is therefore seen as a successful example of a multi-lateral approach to conflict resolution under the guidance of the UN Security Council. ECOWAS, Nigeria, the European Union, the US and above all the UK have played important roles; however, it was the largest UN peacekeeping

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operation of its time, UNAMSIL, that carried the lion's share in bringing peace and stability back to Sierra Leone.

At its height, the UN peacekeeping operation included 17,500 peacekeepers from 37 countries. Together with its civilian political and administrative personnel the UN's presence deployed over 20,000 staff in Sierra Leone. This represented a massive investment by the international community. A total of 192 UN peacekeepers lost their lives in the service for peace in Sierra Leone.

Today, all the UN peacekeepers have gone home and the UN has shifted its assistance to peacebuilding and UN agencies have mostly replaced their humanitarian and recovery operations with more long-term development activities. Sierra Leone has been a pioneer with respect to various new forms UN engagements: it hosted the first large peacekeeping mission with a robust mandate and complex multidimensional tasks led by a new type of mission leadership that included the post of a DSRSG with RR/RC/HC responsibilities; it was the first of two countries on the agenda of a newly established UN Peacebuilding Commission; it is presently the first and only country to host a DPA-led fully integrated peacebuilding mission.

With his visit, the ***Secretary-General could draw attention to an example where multilateralism had worked.*** This may be of particular importance at this time when multilateral approaches to conflict prevention are being rehabilitated. In particular, the Secretary-General could draw attention to the role of the United Nations in supporting the democratic transition in Sierra Leone.

3. Sierra Leone is Important as an Example that Peacebuilding Works

In its resolution 1829 of 4th of August of 2008, the UN Security Council requested the Secretary-General to set up the first ever DPA-led fully integrated peacebuilding mission in Sierra Leone. UNIPSIL has now become fully operational and at the last Security Council meeting on 14 September 2009, members were unanimous in acknowledging UNIPSIL as a model for future peacebuilding missions to be established in other post conflict countries.

UNIPSIL is proof that is possible to shift from large-scale UN peacekeeping mission to much smaller and cheaper UN peacebuilding presence. The new integrated peacebuilding office has only a staff of 73 of which almost 45% are locally recruited staff – a dramatic reduction from a height of over 20,000 staff only a few years ago. Today, there is no military personnel in the mission; by contrast the civilian staff of UNIPSIL consists of a number of high-level experts on issues such as constitutional reforms, human rights and rule of law, on democratic institutions, anti-corruption, control of illicit drugs trafficking, police standards and on independent public broadcasting.

The shift from peacekeeping was also a shift in operational focus: while the UN peacekeeping mission focused on security, the new peacebuilding mission focuses now on development. To achieve this, UNIPSIL together with the UN country team developed a joint peacebuilding strategy - the Joint UN Vision for Sierra Leone - that has the strong support of the Government and its major external partners, as well as an overwhelming endorsement of the Peacebuilding Commission at the Special Session held in June of this year.

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Sierra Leone

Despite its much smaller size, the new integrated peacebuilding mission has been able to maintain its political relevance and influence as shown during the March disturbances and the negotiation of the multi-party Joint Communiqué that ended the violent disturbances and set a course political dialogue and confidence building among the country's major political parties.

With his visit, the ***Secretary-General could draw attention to the fact that peacebuilding works***. This would be in particular important for the Secretary-General, as the new concept of peacebuilding missions had been developed under his leadership.

4. Sierra Leone is **Important** as an **Example** that UN **Integration** Works

In Sierra Leone, UNIPSIL and the UN country team have been able to implement the Secretary-General's policy on integration and to achieve a high degree of programmatic and operational integration. The ERSG is also the Resident Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Representative; thus combining the responsibilities of as the head of the political mission with that of the development mission on one person that has greatly contributed to the development of an integrated approach to peacebuilding, and provided the much needed trust and credibility in our dialogue and cooperation with the Government and major external players in Sierra Leone.

UNIPSIL and eighteen UN development and humanitarian agencies have been able to agree on one single strategy, the Joint UN Vision that centers all UN activities on five priority areas and 21 programmes. They further agreed on a set of common benchmarks, on a common outreach policy, on a joint system for programme formulation, programme approval and programme evaluation as well as on managing jointly a strategic planning unit and a joint multi-donor trust fund.

UNIPSIL and the UN country team have further agreed to manage jointly eight regional field offices, joint security services, a joint medical clinic, joint staff recreation facilities and a joint vehicle repair shop. With the new site of UNIPSIL, the corner stone for a common UN House have been laid. Our new integrated approach is proving to be not only as a cost-effective enterprise but also enhanced the UN's visibility and significantly increased the positive impact of our work in the country.

With his visit, the ***Secretary-General could draw attention to a functioning example of high level integration between a political mission and the UN country team***. This may be in particular important to the Secretary-General as this is largely the outcome of his policy on integration.

5. Sierra Leone is **Important** as an **Example** for a Democratic Media

President Ernest Koroma has decided to give up the government radio station and instead to establish an independent national radio and television station that follows the strict international principles for independent public broadcasting corporation. This is a unique example of political will and democratic governance. There are very few examples in the world that a Government has given up voluntarily its own radio station without being forced into it by circumstances. It is even more important if one considers that Sierra Leone would only be the second country in Africa after South Africa to have such an independent national broadcaster.

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The independent public broadcasting corporation is supported by all political parties in Sierra Leone, including the opposition parties. After the disturbances of March, the main political parties agreed in the Joint Communiqué that they would also give up their respective political party radio stations that had played an ambivalent role before and during the disturbances. The role partisan media in fomenting violence, witnessed in many conflict countries, in particular in the Rwandan Genocide, is an important issue that needs to be addressed as part and parcel of post conflict democratic transition and institution building. The progress towards setting an independent broadcasting corporation is yet another good example of cooperation between Sierra Leone and the United Nations, also illustrating the political maturity of the peacebuilding process.

The UN is assisting in the setting up of the new independent public broadcasting corporation, providing advice to the Government on its legal framework and the transition process. UNIPSIL will further transfer its own UN radio station to merge into the Sierra Leonean Broadcasting Corporation. Further funding comes from the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

It is envisaged that the new independent Sierra Leonean Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) be launched jointly by the President and the Secretary-General. With his visit and by launching the SLBC, the ***Secretary-General could therefore draw attention to the importance of an independent media for the peaceful and democratic development of countries emerging from conflict.***

MvdS
Freetown, 26 September 2009