SECRET/NI

ENVELOPE

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SECTION 01 OF 03

/*********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE ***********/

BODY

SECRET/NI
SUBJ: LIBERIA SITUATION/DIA INTSUM NUMBER 30 AS OF 291733Z JUN 90 (U)

(C/NT) THIS REPORT REPRESENTS A WEEKLY SUMMARY. IT REVIEWS SIGNIFICANT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LIBERIA CRISIS BETWEEN 23 JUNE AND 29 JUNE.

1. (U) SUMMARY.

(C/NT) FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF SPORADIC SKIRMISHES, FIGHTING ESCALATED ON THE 29TH. GUNFIRE WAS REPORTED IN SEVERAL AREAS OUTSIDE MONROVIA. THE NATIONAL PARTIOTIC FRONT OF LIBERIA (NPFL) REOCCUPIED ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RIA) ON THE 29TH. DISCIPLINE AMONG ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) TROOPS CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. THE CAPITAL IS WITHOUT WATER FOR THE SECOND DAY. PEOPLE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY OUTSPoken IN THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT DOE'S HANDLING OF THE CRISIS, AND MORE LIBERIANS ARE OPENLY DISCUSSING THE LIKELIHOOD THAT DOE WILL BE FORCED OUT OF OFFICE.

2. (U) MILITARY SITUATION.

A. (U) REBEL ACTIVITIES.

(C/NT) DURING THE WEEK OF 23-29 JUNE, REBEL FORCES STEPPED UP OFFENSIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS THOUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. AFTER TAKING CAREYSBURG, GUERRILLAS ENGAGED GOVERNMENT TROOPS NEAR BENSONVILLE ON THE 25TH. GOVERNMENT SOURCES CLAIM THE NPFL SUSTAINED HEAVY CASUALTIES AND RETREATED TO CAREYSBURG.

(C/NT) ON THE 26TH OR 27TH, REBEL FORCES TOOK CONTROL OF THE WATER PURIFICATION PLANT AT WHITE PLAINS, APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES NORTH OF MONROVIA. AS A RESULT OF THE FIGHTING IN THE AREA, MANY PLANT EMPLOYEES REFUSED TO RETURN TO WORK. THE FACILITY IS EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN AND THE WATER SUPPLY TO MONROVIA HAS BEEN CUT OFF.

(C/NT) FIGHTING ON THE 28TH WAS REPORTED NORTH OF WHITE PLAINS NEAR THE MOUNT COFFEE HYDROELECTRIC STATION WHICH PROVIDES MOST OF MONROVIA'S ELECTRICAL
POWER. BY
THE AFTERNOON OF THE 29TH, THE NPFL WAS THOUGHT TO BE IN
CONTROL
OF THE STATION. NPFL FORCES APPARENTLY ATTACKED AN AFL
CONTINGENT NEAR CLAY ASHLAND. NPFL FORCES WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN SEVERAL
CLASHES ON THE FIRESTONE PLANTATION ON THE
29TH.
REBELS REPORTEDLY ATTACKED GOVERNMENT TROOPS NEAR GATE 15, ON THE
WESTERN PERIMETER OF THE PLANTATION. CLASHES ALSO OCCURRED
NEAR
DIVISION 38, WHICH IS NEAR THE FARMINGTON RIVER EAST OF CAREYSBURG, AND AT DIVISION 45, WHICH IS NEAR HARBEL ON THE
SOUTHERN END OF THE PLANTATION. AVAILABLE INFORMATION
SUGGESTED
THAT THE NPFL HAD DRIVEN REMAINING GOVERNMENT FORCES OUT OF THE
FIRESTONE PLANTATION.
FIGHTING WAS REPORTED AT ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT (RIA) ON THE 29TH. BY LATE AFTERNOON THE REBELS HAD
REOCCUPIED THE AIRPORT. THE MAIN TERMINAL AND VIP LOUNGE WERE
APPEARENTLY DESTROYED, BUT THE CONTROL TOWER AND OTHER BUILDINGS
WERE INTACT. AN NPFL CONTINGENT WAS PROCEEDING FROM RIA TO
CAMP
SCHIEFFLIN, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 12 MILES.
ON THE 29TH, REBEL ATTACKS WERE ALSO
REPORTED
AT GBORPLAY IN EASTERN NIMBA COUNTY, BOPOLU
IN LOWER LOFA COUNTY, CAMP JACKSON
IN NORTHERN BONG COUNTY, AND AT BORBOL (UNLOCATED), WHICH IS
NEAR
THE GRAND GEDEH-NIMBA COUNTY LINE.
B. (U) GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.
(SAME) THE LONG AWAITED ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL)

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COUNTEROFFENSIVE AGAIN FAILED TO MATERIALIZE DURING THE WEEK
OF
23-29 JUNE. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE SAID TO HAVE DRIVEN REBEL
FORCES FROM BENSONVILLE ON THE 25TH BUT THIS WAS THE ONLY
REPORTED AFL VICTORY. BY THE 26TH, AFL CHECKPOINTS NEAR CAREYSBURG AND MOUNT BARCLAY WERE DESERTED.

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GOVERNMENT MADE A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE WHITE PLAINS
SECRET/NT

PURIFICATION FACILITY ON THE 27TH, BUT THIS, TOO, FAILED AS THE AFL REPORTEDLY SUSTAINED HEAVY CASUALTIES AND WITHDRAWN.

The most crushing AFL setback may have come on the 29th when Government troops were apparently overrun at RIA. By late afternoon no Government troops were believed to be at the airport.

IN MONROVIA, INCIDENTS OF AFL TROOP INDICENCE PEAKED DURING A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION ON THE 27TH. TROOPS STATIONED AROUND THE BARCLAY TRAINING CENTER FIRED OVER THE HEADS OF DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE PARTICIPATING IN A PEACE MARCH CALLING FOR DOE'S RESIGNATION. IN THE ENSUING CHAOS, AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF CIVILIANS WERE INJURED. ARMED SOLDIERS ROAMED THE STREETS HARASSING PEOPLE AND LOOTING SHOPS. ORDER WAS FINALLY RESTORED LATE IN THE AFTERNOON AFTER SENIOR OFFICERS WENT THROUGH THE CITY SETTING UP CHECKPOINTS TO HELP CORRAL UNRULY TROOPS.

Liberia's Air Reconnaissance Unit (ARU) is said to have only two operational aircraft. One CESSNA 172 and one CARIBOU ARE BEING USED TO FERRY KRAHN PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES TO ZWEDRU IN GRAND GEDEH COUNTY.

First Battalion Commander Col Moses Wright has been ordered to ZWEDRU TO TAKE CHARGE OF AFL FORCES IN GRAND GEDEH. WRIGHT HAS BEEN ONE OF DOE'S MOST LOYAL KRAHN OFFICERS.

U.S. sources in Monrovia indicate that the polarization between KRAHN AND NON-KRAHN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE AFL IS INCREASING. NON-KRAHN OFFICERS ARE SAID TO BE DISCUSSING WAYS TO PERSUADE DOE TO LEAVE OFFICE. BOTH KRAHN AND NON-KRAHN OFFICERS ARE SAID TO BE PLANNING FOR THEIR OWN ESCAPE.

3. (U) POLITICAL SITUATION.

NPFL REPRESENTATIVES FAILED TO RETURN TO FREE TOWN, SIERRA LEONE ON THE 25TH FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF PEACE TALKS WITH LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FRUSTRATED BY WHAT
SECRETARY

They see as President Doe's unwillingness to negotiate his own resignation, rebel leaders said they saw no point in returning to the negotiating table.

The Liberian independent press is becoming increasingly anti-Doe and anti-AFL. Several opposition parties also called for Doe's resignation this week. A crowd of several thousand people participated in a peace march sponsored by the Liberian Council of Churches (LCC) on the 26th. The next day, another demonstration was held specifically demanding Doe's resignation. Violence erupted at both demonstrations, injuring a number of participants and bystanders.

4. (U) Third country activities.

(A/N) Abbas Bundu, executive secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), met with Doe in Monrovia on the 27th to discuss possible ECOWAS mediation in ending Liberia's civil war. Bundu left town on the 27th, after shooting erupted in the streets of Monrovia. His abrupt departure forced the cancellation of planned meetings with other politicians.

6. (U) COMMENT.

The deteriorating living conditions in the capital could fuel public demands for Doe's resignation. Recent military defeats, especially the loss of Ria, will further undermine the already low AFL morale. The transfer to Zwedru of Col Moses Wright, one of the President's closest confidants and advisers, could indicate that Doe is considering an escape to Grand Gedeh County.