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**FROM**

(b)(3):10 USC 424

**CONTROLS**

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**DOCNO**

SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) LIBERIA (LI).

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 PORTRAIT OF THE REBELS AT

FIRESTONE (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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-  
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 900611.

REQS:

(b)(3):10  
USC 424

(b)(3):50  
USC 3024(i)

SUMMARY: (S) REPORT FORWARDS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE REBELS  
OCCUPYING THE **FIRESTONE PLANTATION** IN THE VICINITY OF  
HARBEL

TEXT: 1. (b)(1), 1.4 (c) DESCRIBED THE REBELS WHO OCCUPY THE  
**FIRESTONE PLANTATION** IN THE VICINITY OF HARBEL AS BEING  
PRIMARILY 16-18 YEAR OLDS. ALTHOUGH A FEW OF THEM ARE  
DRESSED IN DISCARDED OR CAPTURED AFL UNIFORMS, THE  
MAJORITY OF THE INSURGENTS ARE ATTIRED IN CIVILIAN  
CLOTHING. MOST OF THE REBELS WEAR A RED HEADBAND OR A  
BANDANNA OVER THEIR HEAD, AND/OR A RED BANDANNA WORN  
AROUND THEIR NECK LIKE A CRAVAT. MANY OF THEM WEAR A

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LEATHER AMULET TIED AT THEIR WAIST, OR AFFIXED TO THEIR HEADBAND. (b)(1), 1.4 (c) MANY OF THE INSURGENTS HAVE ALSO TIED A RED RIBBON TO THE BARREL OF THEIR RIFLE. MOST OF THE MEN REPORTEDLY LOOK DIRTY AND (b)(1), 1.4 (c) SCRUFFY, AND (b)(1), 1.4 (c) THEY HAVE NOT BATHED OR HAD A CHANGE OF CLOTHES SINCE ENTERING THE CONFLICT ON THE SIDE OF THE NPFL. THE EXPATRIATES REPORTEDLY REFER TO THE YOUTHFUL INSURGENTS AS "YOUNG RAMBOS."

2. (C) ALTHOUGH THE REBELS APPEAR TIRED, THEIR MORALE IS REPORTEDLY QUITE HIGH. REBELS EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT, IF THE PEACE TALKS FAIL, THEY COULD TAKE MONROVIA AT WILL, AND STATED THE INTENTION OF GOING TO THE CAPITAL "TO KILL DOE." (b)(1), 1.4 (c) MANY OF THE REBELS CLAIM TO HAVE HAD FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED BY THE AFL, AND THAT MOST OF THEM SEEM MOTIVATED BY A THIRST FOR REVENGE. (b)(1), 1.4 (c) RELATED AN INCIDENT IN WHICH ONE REBEL SPIED A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT DOE ON AN OFFICE WALL AND SEEMINGLY WENT BESERK. HE SMASHED HIS RIFLE BUTT INTO THE GLASS COVERED PHOTO, KNOCKED THE PICTURE TO THE FLOOR AND DESTROYED BOTH THE FRAME AND THE PHOTOGRAPH. UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT HARBEL, THE REBELS WERE INITIALLY QUITE HYPER, SUSPICIOUS AND THREATENING, AND THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF LOOTING. AFTER A TIME, THEY REPORTEDLY CALMED SOMEWHAT AND GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE EXPATRIATES AND THE PLANTATION WORK FORCE WOULD NOT BE HARMED. (b)(1), 1.4 (c)

(b)(1), 1.4 (c) THE INSURGENTS MAINTAIN AN ONGOING SEARCH AROUND THE PLANTATION FOR WHISKEY AND LOOSE WOMEN WITH WHICH TO CELEBRATE THEIR PROWESS AND SUCCESSES.

3. (C) IT APPEARED (b)(1), 1.4 (c) THE REBELS LACKED A LOCAL, OR SUB-UNIT, COMMANDER OR LEADER. THE PREVIOUS LEADER WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED DURING THE INITIAL FIGHTING AT HARBEL, AND THE NPFL HAS NOT YET FORMALLY DESIGNATED ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL TO TAKE COMMAND. THIS HAS RESULTED IN SEVERAL DISAGREEMENTS AMONG INDIVIDUAL REBELS AS THEY ARGUE ABOUT PRIORITIES, PERSONAL PRECEDENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF LOOTED SPOILS. THE STRONGEST INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED (b)(1), 1.4 (c) ARE A MAN NAMED PETER, ONE CALLED AUGUSTINE, AND A CPT ((PAYE)). (b)(1), 1.4 (c) HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR NAMES. AS OF 900611, THE REBELS BELIEVED THAT CHARLES TAYLOR WAS

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INTENDING TO VISIT HARBEL, AND POSSIBLY KAKATA AND BONG, FROM BUCHANAN.

4. (C) (b)(1), 1.4 (c) [REDACTED] THE INITIAL GROUP OF INSURGENTS THAT SEIZED HARBEL CONSISTED OF 65-75 MEN. SINCE THAT TIME, REINFORCEMENTS FROM BOTH BUCHANAN AND KAKATA HAVE REPORTEDLY BOOSTED THE REBEL NUMBERS UP TO APPROXIMATELY 250.

5. (C) MOST OF THE REBELS ARE ARMED WITH AK-47 RIFLES, ALTHOUGH A FEW CARRY M16'S. (b)(1), 1.4 (c) [REDACTED] ALSO SAW TWO OR THREE PICKUP TRUCKS WITH MACHINE GUNS MOUNTED ON THE BED OF THE TRUCK. DUE TO BEING TOO FAR AWAY, AND LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH WEAPONS, (b)(1), 1.4 (c) [REDACTED] WERE UNABLE TO TELL WHETHER THE WEAPONS WERE MOUNTED ON SOME TYPE OF PEDESTAL OR WHETHER THEY WERE SET UP ON A TRIPOD.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c) [REDACTED] ALSO SAW MANY (AN UNDETERMINED QUANTITY) WEAPONS WHICH SOUND LIKE (BASED UPON THEIR DESCRIPTION) RPG-7'S.

//IPSP: (U)

(b)(1), (b)(3):10 USC 424, 1.4 (c)

ADMIN

PROJ: (U).

COLL: (U).

INSTR: (U)

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