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ENVELOPE

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HEADER

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SECTION 01 OF 03

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

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USC 424;
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USC 3024(i)

PASS: [REDACTED]

SUBJ: LIBERIA SITUATION/DIA INTSUM NUMBER 30 AS OF 291730Z JUN 90
(U)

~~(C/NF)~~ 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/NF)~~ 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) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 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

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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/NF)~~ DURING THE WEEK OF 23-29 JUNE, REBEL
FORCES

STEPPED UP OFFENSIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS THOUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY.

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AFTER TAKING CAREYSBURG [REDACTED], GUERRILLAS ENGAGED
GOVERNMENT TROOPS NEAR BENSONVILLE [REDACTED] ON THE
25TH.

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GOVERNMENT SOURCES CLAIM THE NPFL SUSTAINED HEAVY
CASUALTIES AND
RETREATED TO CAREYSBURG.

~~(C/NF)~~ ON THE 26TH OR 27TH, REBEL FORCES TOOK
CONTROL

OF THE WATER PURIFICATION PLANT AT WHITE PLAINS [REDACTED]

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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/NF)~~ FIGHTING ON THE 28TH WAS REPORTED NORTH OF
WHITE PLAINS NEAR THE MOUNT COFFEE HYDROELECTRIC STATION

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[REDACTED] WHICH PROVIDES MOST OF MONROVIA'S ELECTRICAL

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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 [REDACTED].

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~~(C/NF)~~ NPFL FORCES WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN SEVERAL

CLASHES ON THE FIRESTONE PLANTATION [REDACTED] ON THE 29TH.

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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.

~~(C/NF)~~ 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 APPARENTLY DESTROYED, BUT THE CONTROL TOWER AND OTHER BUILDINGS

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WERE INTACT. AN NPFL CONTINGENT WAS PROCEEDING FROM RIA TO

CAMP

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SCHIEFFLIN [REDACTED], A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 12 MILES.

~~(C/NF)~~ ON THE 29TH, REBEL ATTACKS WERE ALSO REPORTED

AT GBORPLAY [REDACTED] IN EASTERN NIMBA COUNTY, BOPOLU

[REDACTED] IN LOWER LOFA COUNTY, CAMP JACKSON [REDACTED]

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IN NORTHERN BONG COUNTY, AND AT BORBOL (UNLOCATED), WHICH IS NEAR

THE GRAND GEDEH-NIMBA COUNTY LINE.

B. (U) GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

~~(C/NF)~~ THE LONG AWAITED ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL)

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

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 [REDACTED] WERE DESERTED.

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GOVERNMENT MADE A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE WHITE PLAINS

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WATER

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

~~(C/NF)~~ 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.

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(b)

~~(C/NF)~~ IN MONROVIA, INCIDENTS OF AFL TROOP INDISCIPLINE 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.

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~~(C/NF)~~ LIBERIA'S AIR RECONNAISSANCE UNIT (ARU) IS SAID TO HAVE ONLY TWO OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT. ONE CESSNA 172

AND

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ONE [REDACTED] CARIBOU ARE BEING USED TO FERRY KRAHN PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES TO ZWEDRU [REDACTED] IN GRAND GEDEH COUNTY.

~~(C/NF)~~ 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.

~~(C/NF)~~ 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.

~~(C/NF)~~ NPFL REPRESENTATIVES FAILED TO RETURN TO FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE ON THE 25TH FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF PEACE TALKS WITH LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. FRUSTRATED BY WHAT

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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.

~~(C/NF)~~ 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.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(b)

~~(C/NF)~~ 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.

5. (U) STATUS OF U.S. CITIZENS.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

6. (U) COMMENT.

~~(C/NF)~~ 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.

ADMIN

PREPARED BY:



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