

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~**ENVELOPE**

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

**HEADER**

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 151720Z JUN 90  
 FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
 INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
 RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC  
 RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC

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RUFTAKA/CDR USA [REDACTED] HEIDELBERG GE

RUFGAID/USEUCOM [REDACTED] VAIHINGEN GE

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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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**CONTROLS**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 (b)(3):10 USC 424~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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3/25/2014

SERIAL: (U)

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

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) LIBERIA (LI).

SUBJ:

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MORE NOTES ON REBELS AT HARBEL

(U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED~~CONFIDENTIAL~~-----  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 900614.

REQS: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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SUMMARY: (U) REPORT FORWARDS DEBRIEFING NOTES PERTAINING  
TO REBEL COMBATANTS AT HARBEL, FIRESTONE PLANTATION.

TEXT: 1. (U) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE REBELS AS BEING YOUNG  
AND POORLY DISCIPLINED. THE  
INITIAL GROUP OF INSURGENTS THAT ARRIVED AT HARBEL  
900605 WAS AGED 16-20, BUT THAT SUBSEQUENT ARRIVALS WERE  
IN THEIR TWENTIES, WITH RARE INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR  
THIRTIES. (b)(1),1.4 (c) NEARLY ALL OF THE REBELS AS  
BEING UNEDUCATED (ALTHOUGH SOME CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN  
TRAINED AND/OR EDUCATED IN LIBYA, BURKINA FASO, CUBA OR  
RUSSIA), AND SAID THAT MANY WERE DRUNK OR STONED ON  
MARIJUANA MUCH OF THE TIME. (b)(1),1.4 (c) HE  
OBSERVED SEVERAL OF THE INSURGENTS SMOKING MARIJUANA,  
AND SPOKE OF THEM AS, "CRAZIES, DRUNKS AND 16 YEAR OLD  
RAMBOS." (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE INSURGENTS  
DEMONSTRATED GOOD DISCIPLINE ONLY IN THE IMMEDIATE  
PRESENCE OF A REBEL LEADER; THE REST OF THE TIME THEY  
WERE POORLY BEHAVED.

2. (U) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THERE WERE SEVERAL REBEL  
FACTIONS AND SUB-GROUPS OPERATING IN THE HARBEL AREA (OR  
BETWEEN HARBEL AND KAKATA). MOST GROUPS WITH WHICH THEY  
HAD DEALINGS CONSISTED OF 4-8 MEMBERS; SOME HAD 30-35,  
AND ONE LEADER ARRIVED ACCOMPANIED BY 40-45. (b)(1),1.4 (c)  
(b)(1),1.4 (c) DURING ONE WALK FROM THE RESIDENTIAL AREA  
INTO THE TOWN OF HARBEL, THERE SEEMED TO BE SEVERAL

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SMALL SECURITY ZONES, EACH OF WHICH WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A SEPARATE REBEL CELL. (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) HE WOULD BE ESCORTED UP TO SOME UNSEEN LINE BY ONE GROUP (SQUAD, PERHAPS), AT WHICH POINT HE WAS PICKED UP BY NEW ESCORTS.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL LEADERS AMONG THE INSURGENTS. HE NAMED AUGUSTINE AND "BORDER PATROL" AS LOWER LEVEL LEADERS, A MAN NAMED WALKER SEEMED TO BE A HIGHER LEVEL OFFICIAL, AND ON 900612 AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED VARNEY (WHICH CAN BE EITHER A FIRST OR LAST NAME) ARRIVED WHO SEEMED TO POSSESS GREATER AUTHORITY THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS. VARNEY REPORTEDLY INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS "AREA COMMANDER," AND WAS OLDER ("THIRTY-ISH") AND SEEMINGLY BETTER EDUCATED THAN THE OTHER INSURGENT LEADERS. ALL THE VARIOUS LEADERS APPEARED TO RESPECT THE NPFL LEADER, CHARLES ((TAYLOR)).

3. (c) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE REBELS CONTROL THE AREA FROM COTTON TREE NORTH TO KAKATA. THERE WAS REPORTEDLY FREQUENT MOVEMENT OF REBEL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS BACK AND FORTH BY ROAD FROM KAKATA, THROUGH HARBEL, TO BUCHANAN. THE REBELS SEEMED TO WANDER INTO THE RESIDENTIAL AREA DURING THE DAY (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) BUT MADE NO EFFORT TO HOLD THE AREA. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THERE WAS AN AFL PRESENCE IN HARBEL AND NEAR 15 GATE, BUT THAT THE AREA IN BETWEEN SEEMED TO BE EMPTY, IGNORED BY BOTH THE AFL AND INSURGENTS.

4. (c) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE REBELS HAD "ALL KINDS" OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) PLUS HANDGUNS. (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) IN AT LEAST ONE CASE, A REBEL WITH A BREAD KNIFE TIED TO THE BARREL OF HIS RIFLE AS A BAYONET. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THEY OBSERVED 6-8 RPG-7'S WITH THE REBELS, AND THEY BELIEVED THAT THEY HAD HEARD MORTAR FIRE IN THE DISTANCE. (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) THE INSURGENTS HAD LOTS OF AMMUNITION. 45-60 MINUTES OF INTENSE FIRING THAT OCCURRED THE AFTERNOON OF 900610 WAS APPARENTLY SIMPLY THE REBELS (FIRING INTO THE AIR) PUTTING ON A DISPLAY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS THAT HAD ARRIVED IN THE AREA VIA ROAD FROM BUCHANAN. (b)(1),1.4 (c) "TENS OF THOUSANDS" OF ROUNDS HAD BEEN FIRED INTO THE AIR.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY RELIABLE EMPLOYEES THAT THE REBELS HAD "BLOWN UP" THE BARRACKS FOR THE PLANTATION SECURITY FORCE (AUGMENTED BY A FEW SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN) THAT HAD BEEN AT HARBEL PRIOR TO THE REBELS' ARRIVAL. (b)(1),1.4 (c) KNEW WHETHER THE INSURGENTS HAD PLACED SOME TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE CHARGE, OR WHETHER THEY HAD DESTROYED THE BUILDING BY FIRING VARIOUS HIGH EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS AT IT.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) SPOKE OF A REBEL "CANNON" MOUNTED IN THE BACK OF A PICKUP TRUCK. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE WEAPON FILLED THE TRUCK BED AND THAT ITS WEIGHT OVERLOADED THE VEHICLE. PART OF THE WEAPON WAS CANVAS COVERED. HE DESCRIBED THE

"CANNON" AS HAVING A BARREL 6-7 FEET LONG, AND 2.5-3 INCHES IN DIAMETER. HE BELIEVES (ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT SURE) THAT THE WEAPON DID NOT HAVE WHEELS ON THE CARRIAGE. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE WEAPON BEING FIRED, BUT (b)(1),1.4 (c) PLANTATION EMPLOYEES HAD REPORTED THAT THE GUN HDA BEEN FIRED AGAINST DODO TOWN (BETWEEN HARBEL AND UNIFICATION TOWN).

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5. ~~(S)~~ (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE REBELS WERE MOTIVATED BY REVENGE AND THE DESIRE TO DEPOSE DOE. REFERENCE THE CURRENT FREETOWN NEGOTIATIONS, HE QUOTED ONE REBEL AS SAYING, "WE DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS, WE ARE GOING TO TAKE MONROVIA AND KILL DOE." (b)(1),1.4 (c) SEVERAL INSURGENTS EXPRESSED THE INTENT TO KILL ALL KRAHNS AND MANDINGOS.

6. ~~(S)~~ (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE INSURGENTS SEEM TO BE SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF TRANSPORT, STEMMING FROM A SHORTAGE OF BOTH VEHICLES AND FUEL. THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM EXISTS DESPITE THEIR HAVING VEHICLES STOLEN FROM LAC (ON WHICH THE "CANNON" WAS MOUNTED), LIMCO, RIA, FIRESTONE, AND THE LIBERIAN GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. THEY ALSO LACK ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS; THEY HAD TO RELY ON THE COMMUNICATIONS RADIO NET THAT THEY HAD COMMANDEERED FROM FIRESTONE.

7. ~~(S)~~ (b)(1),1.4 (c) THEY HAD HEARD INCREASING RUMORS THAT THE LOCAL LIBERIAN LABOR FORCE IS TIRING OF THE REBEL PRESENSE. THE PLANTATION WORKERS, LIBERIAN AND EXPATRIATE ALIKE, HAD SEEMINGLY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE REBELS' ARRIVAL AS A RELIEF FROM THE INSECURITY POSED BY THE HEAVY AFL PRESENSE NEARBY. AFTER HOSTING THE REBELS FOR TEN DAYS OF HARASSMENT AND LOOTING, WITH LITTLE TO INDICATE THAT THEY WERE ATTEMPTING POSITIVE ACTION TO MOVE ON MONROVIA AND DEPOSE DOE, THERE IS CONCERN THAT LITTLE GOOD WILL COME OF THE CONFLICT. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THE GRUMBLINGS REFLECTED A DECLINE IN POPULAR SUPPORT (AT LEAST ON THE FIRESTONE PLANTATION) FOR THE NPFL INSURGENTS.

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