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BODY

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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IN RESPONSE TO A 26 AUGUST LETTER BY TANZANIAN BATTALION COMMANDER LTC ((MRENGO)) NOTIFYING THE NPFL THAT MRENGO'S BATTALION HEADQUARTERS UNIT AND TWO PLATOONS LOCATED AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI), APPROXIMATELY NINE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF GBARNGA, WISHED TO RELOCATE BACK TO THEIR BATTALION POSITION AT KONOLA (b)(3):10 USC 424 IN EFFECT, THE

TANZANIANS ARE NOT FREE TO REDEPLOY AS THEY PLEASE. THEY ARE FREE TO CONTINUE TO RESUPPLY THE UNIT, SEND SOLDIERS BACK FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, ETC., BUT ANY MASS MOVEMENT BY THE UNIT IS PROHIBITED BY THE NPFL.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

(C/NF) ALL OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, 1. NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGO'S), UNOMIL, AND THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES CEASEFIRE MONITORING GROUP (ECOMOG) AS WELL AS JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE IN MONROVIA IS TALKING ABOUT THE DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION AROUND GBARNGA, WITH THE MORE SENSATIONAL ACCOUNTS SAYING THAT GBARNGA IS UNDER SIEGE. TO RO'S KNOWLEDGE, AS OF 1 SEPTEMBER, THE TACTICAL SITUATION NORTHWEST OF GBARNGA CONSISTS OF A LIMITED ATTACK BY ELEMENTS OF THE ULIMO-MANDINGOES AND THE LOFA DEFENSE FORCE (LDF), WHOSE MILITARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN TO SURPRISE NPFL POSITION AT THE ST PAUL RIVER BRIDGE TOWN OF GBALATUAI (b)(3):10 USC 424 (b)(3):10 USC 424 AND BELEFAUNAI (b)(3):10 USC 424 AS BELEFAUNAI WAS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN OVER A WEEK AGO, THE SIEGE COULD SAID TO HAVE BEEN STALLED SINCE THAT TIME. TO DATE, THE ABOVE REPORT IS THE ONLY CREDIBLE REPORT (b)(1),1.4 (c) INDICATING THAT A KRAHN FACTION IS ABOUT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE FRAY. AN EARLIER UNOMIL (AND LATER NEWSPAPER) REPORT THAT THE LPC WAS CONDUCTING AMBUSHES AGAINST NPFL TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD

CORROBORATED (b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c) NOW BELIEVES THIS ACTIVITY EITHER DID NOT TAKE PLACE OR CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO NPFL INFIGHTING.

HAS NOT BEEN

NEAR GBATALA (b)(3):10 USC 424

(C) NEWSPAPER REPORTS HAVE STATED THAT A NUMBER OF 2. FACTIONS, INCLUDING THE KRAHN FACTIONS, HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO DRIVE TAYLOR AND THE NPFL OUT OF ITS CAPITAL. SUCH AN AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING WOULD NEED THE FULL SUPPORT OF ALL THE KRAHN FACTIONS AND OTHER NEW GROUPS DEDICATED TO THE DEFEAT OF CHARLES TAYLOR. ON THE KRAHN SIDE, THIS INCLUDES THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL), THE LPC AND ULIMO-KRAHN. OTHER OPPOSING FORCES WOULD POSSIBLY INCLUDE LDF MEMBERS LOYAL TO NPFL BREAKAWAY JUSTICE MINISTER LAVELI ((SUPUWOOD)), NIMBA COUNTY NPFL FIGHTERS LOYAL TO NPFL BREAKAWAY MINISTER OF LABOR TOM ((WOEWIYU) AND NPFL FIGHTERS LOYAL TO NPFL BREAKAWAY MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS SAMUEL ((DOKIE)). TO DATE, ONLY THE LDF HAS ATTACKED, ALIGNED WITH THE ULIMO-MANDINGO, RECENTLY DEFEATED AND RUN OUT OF BOMI COUNTY BY THE ULIMO-KRAHN.

(C) THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE CAPTURE OF BELEFAUNAI HAS BEEN THE DEATH OF 23 YEAR OLD NPFL LTG NIXON ((GAYE)). IN A 28 AUGUST BBC REPORT TAYLOR ACCUSED GAYE OF CONSPIRING WITH DOKIE TO STAGE A MUTINY IN NPFL RANKS. IT IS UNCLEAR IF THIS WAS A KEY ELEMENT OF THE ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST TAYLOR. IF SO, IT MUST BE A SIGNIFICANT SETBACK FOR ANTI-NPFL FORCES. AN (b)(1),1.4 (c) HAS DISCOUNTED NPFL SUPPORT FOR WOEWIYU IN NIMBA COUNTY. THE DEATH OF GAYE (AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL OTHER CO-CONSPIRATORS), WILL LIKELY DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM OF OTHER MUTINOUS PLANS.

4. (C) THIS LEAVES THE AFL TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PLAN. THE AFL IS BELIEVED SYNONYMOUS WITH THE LPC AND TO A LESSER EXTENT SUPPORTS THE ULIMO-KRAHN. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE PROVIDED MEN AND AMMUNITION TO ULIMO-K DURING ITS RECENT FIGHTING WITH ULIMO-M. THE AFL PRESENTLY FACES A LARGE NPFL FORCE IN THE FIRESTONE PLANTATION AREA AND OTHER NPFL FORCES BETWEEN FIRESTONE AND BUCHANAN. IF GBARNGA WAS TO COME UNDER SERIOUS PRESSURE, THE AFL WOULD NEED TO MAINTAIN SIGNIFICANT FORCES IN THE FIRESTONE AREA TO REPEL ANY TAYLOR ATTACK THERE.

5. (FT THE NPFL IS AT A HIGH STATE OF ALERT, FEARFUL THAT IT WILL COME UNDER ATTACK, BOTH FROM WITHIN AS WELL AS FROM THE OUTSIDE. TAYLOR IS LIKELY MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS THAN EXTERNAL ONES AT THE MOMENT. THIS COULD CHANGE IF THE KRAHN FACTIONS OPEN NEW FRONTS AGAINST THE NPFL. IT IS UNCLEAR WHY THE NPFL IS PROHIBITING TANBATT FROM REDEPLOYING BUT THE REDEPLOYMENT REQUEST FROM MRENGO WAS LIKELY TAKEN AS ONE MORE INDICATOR TO TAYLOR THAT A COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST GBARNGA WAS IMMINENT. THE NPFL CONSIDERS ECOMOG A FULL PARTNER IN ANTI-NPFL ACTIVITIES AND THE PULLOUT OF TANBATT MUST HAVE LOOKED HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS. ANOTHER REASON THE NPFL MAY NOT WANT TANBATT TO MOVE IS BECAUSE THE TANBATT POSITION IS LOCATED VERY CLOSE TO NPFL DEFENSE MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS AS WELL AS THE CARI FACULTY AND STAFF HOUSING AREAS THAT NOW HOUSE SENIOR NPFL MEMBERS. WITH THE TANZANIANS LOCATED SO CLOSE, BY NPFL REASONING, THE NIGERIANS WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO BOMB THOSE NPFL TARGETS. IN ANOTHER INDICATION OF NPFL CONCERN THAT ECOMOG MAY ASSIST IN AN ATTACK AGAINST THE NPFL, THE NPFL MOVED ONE OF THE ZSU-23-2 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS FROM TAYLOR'S EXECUTIVE MANSION GROUNDS AND RELOCATED IT TO THE AIRFIELD USED BY UNOMIL, "IN ORDER TO COUNTER THE ECOMOG HELICOPTER" UNOMIL SOURCE.

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

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ADMIN

(b)(3):10 USC 424

Page 5 contains nonresponsive information regarding your request. Page not included.