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USC 424 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 07 [Redacted]

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USC 424 SERIAL: (U) [Redacted]

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) LIBERIA (LI).

(b)(3):10 USC 424 SUBJECT: [Redacted] ENCAMPMENT, DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION PLAN (U)

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

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 930900; 931015; 931016.

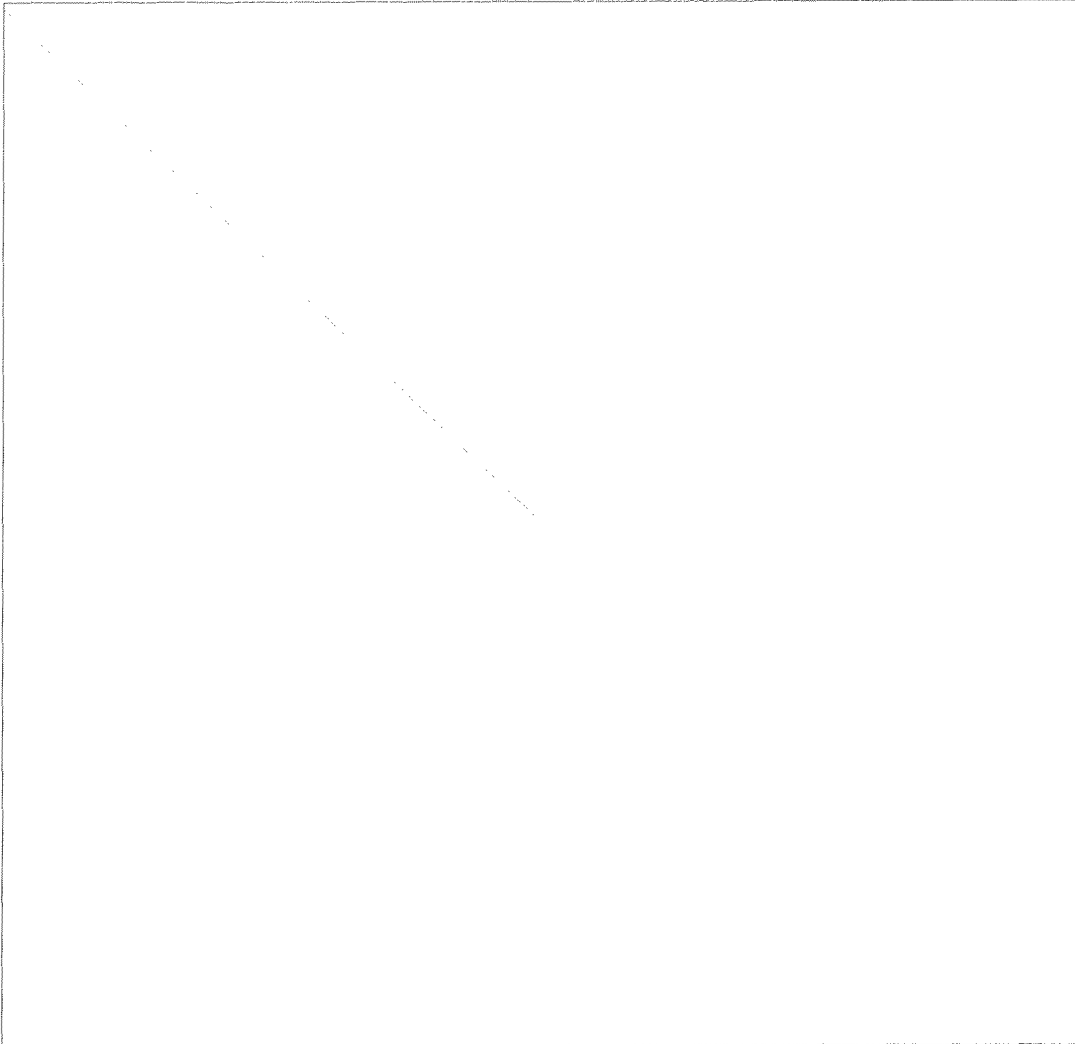
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USC 424 [Redacted] UN DOCUMENT, "THE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR DEMOBILIZED EX-COMBATANTS" (U), IN ENGLISH, 1 COPY, 24 PAGES, 930900 (U).

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USC 424,
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USC 403-1
(i) [Redacted]

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(c) SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ [Redacted]

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2. (U) THE SECOND SUB-PROGRAM IS FOR CHILDFIGHTERS AND IS ESTIMATED TO COST 1,248,500 US DOLLARS. ALL CHILD FIGHTERS WILL BE VERY CAREFULLY SCREENED. AN ESTIMATED 75 PER CENT WHO CANNOT BE IMMEDIATELY REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES OR WHO EXHIBIT HIGHER LEVELS OF STRESS, DRUG ADDICTION, OR PSYCHIATRIC DISTURBANCES WILL BE ASSISTED AT SPECIAL REORIENTATION OR REHABILITATION CAMPS OVER A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO BEING RETURNED INTO THE COMMUNITY. A HOLISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND COUNSELLING IS PROPOSED IN ADDITION TO SHELTER, FOOD AND MEDICINE. ACTIVITIES WILL FOCUS ON SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE TO FORMER YOUNG COMBATANTS AND THEIR RETURN TO NORMALCY, STRESSING THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE FAMILY IN THIS PROCESS.

3. (U) THE THIRD SUB-PROGRAM ADDRESSES COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS AND IS ESTIMATED TO COST 2,250,000 US DOLLARS.

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MANY COMMUNITIES LOST THEIR SCHOOLS, CLINICS, TOWN HALLS, AND PLACES OF WORSHIP DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY UNABLE TO CARRY OUT THOSE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CRUCIAL TO THE REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS. IN RESPONSE, PROJECTS WILL BE DESIGNED TO ASSIST THOSE COMMUNITIES RAVAGED BY WAR TO REBUILD THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND HOUSING. THESE COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS WILL ORIGINATE WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES THROUGH PARTICIPATORY PRELIMINARY STUDIES WHICH WILL INCLUDE SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA. THE PROJECTS WILL BE LABOR INTENSIVE AND ORIENTED TOWARDS QUICK IMPLEMENTATION USING SKILLED INDIVIDUALS FROM A CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING TRAINED EX-COMBATANTS. A NUMBER OF LOCAL NGOS SUCH AS SELF, LUCH, LIURD, AND CCC WILL BE INVOLVED IN EXECUTING THE PROJECTS.

4. (U) OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF THE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM: THE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE REINTEGRATION PROGRAM WILL CONSIST OF A COORDINATED BODY AND A PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM. THE COORDINATED BODY WILL CONSIST OF THE UN SEC GEN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR LIBERIA (MR. TREVOR GORDON-SOMERS) WHO WILL CHAIR THE BODY, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ECOMOG, UNOMIL, AND THE NRRC (NATIONAL REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT COMMISSION). ITS MISSION WILL BE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION, ENSURE COORDINATION AND COHESION BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT SUB-PROGRAMS AND LIAISE WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE REINTEGRATION PROCESS.

5. (U) DETAILS ON DEMOBILIZATION OF EX-COMBATANTS (SUB-PROGRAM 1): THE DEMOBILIZATION OF EX-COMBATANTS SHALL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MILITARY DEBRIEFING BY ECOMOG. FOLLOWING AN INTERVIEW AT ONE OF ELEVEN DEMOBILIZATION CENTERS TO BE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE EX-COMBATANTS WILL BE ISSUED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD WHICH WILL ENTITLE HIM/HER TO A NUMBER OF BENEFITS INCLUDING A MEDICAL EXAMINATION; PSYCHOLOGICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL PROFILING TO DETERMINE INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCES AND APTITUDES WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYMENT; CLOTHING, AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION; AND, FINALLY, TRANSPORTATION TO COMMUNITY OF ORIGIN. IN ORDER TO BE COST EFFECTIVE, A MINIMUM OF 100 PERSONS WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO COMMUNITIES AT A TIME. A FURTHER ASPECT OF THIS PHASE WILL BE INITIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT BASIC

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INFRASTRUCTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PROJECTS, AS DESCRIBED UNDER SUB-PROGRAM 3. A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND NGOS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM. THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WPF) WILL PROVIDE 2,400 MT OF RICE AND 244 MT OF OIL FOR DISTRIBUTION AS TAKE-HOME RATIONS TO EX-COMBATANTS BY LOCAL NGOS, AS WELL AS RATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION WHILE AT THE DEMOBILIZATION CENTERS. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE ALONG WITH WHO WILL COORDINATE THE MEDICAL SERVICES AT EACH CENTER AND CONDUCT WORKSHOPS FOR THE HEALTH WORKERS WHO WILL BE STATIONED AT THE CENTERS. ONLY A BASIC MEDICAL ASSESSMENT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE SITES OF DEMOBILIZATION. PSYCHIATRIC CASES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE NEAREST COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH SUCH CASES. UNICEF WILL FACILITATE THE IDENTIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF CHILD FIGHTERS BELOW THE AGE OF 15 TO THE CLOSEST CHILD FACILITY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE DEMOBILIZATION PROCESS. THE IMMEDIATE BENEFICIARIES ARE THE ESTIMATED 60,000 EX-COMBATANTS TO BE DEMOBILIZED. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS INTO CIVIL SOCIETY BY FACILITATING THE RECONCILIATION AND BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE DEMOBILIZED. MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE PROGRAM WILL BE DONE BY CENTER SUPERVISORS WHO WILL REPORT TO THE PROJECT DIRECTOR ON THE NUMBER OF EX-COMBATANTS COMPLETING THE INTERVIEW, THE AMOUNT OF FOOD AND CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED, THE NUMBER OF FEMALES, MALES, AND CHILDREN DEMOBILIZED, THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED AND REFERRALS MADE, AND NUMBERS TRANSPORTED TO DESIRED DESTINATIONS. REPORTS WILL BE MADE BY RADIO COMMUNICATION FROM THE CENTERS TO THE PROJECT DIRECTOR. THE PROJECT DIRECTOR WILL MAKE PERIODIC VISITS TO EACH DEMOBILIZATION SITES. REGULAR UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PROJECT DIRECTOR TO THE COORDINATING BODY THROUGH THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM. A FINAL REPORT WILL BE PRODUCED AT THE END OF THE DEMOBILIZATION PROCESS. IF THE PROCESS EXTENDS BEYOND THREE MONTHS, MONTHLY UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED.

6. (U) SENSITIZATION OF COMMUNITIES IN ALL DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE DONE BY CONDUCTING 96 WORKSHOPS FOR CHIEFS AND ELDERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY; HOSTING TOWN MEETINGS THROUGH COMMUNITY WELFARE TEAMS, AND TOWN ELDERS; AND CONDUCTING 13 WORKSHOPS FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

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7. (U) SCREENING OF EX-COMBATANTS: THE 60,000 EX-COMBATANTS WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND A PROFILE WILL BE MADE ON EACH ONE. EACH EX-COMBATANT WILL COMPLETE AN INTERVIEW AND A QUESTIONNAIRE; WILL BE ISSUED AN ID CARD; WILL COMPLETE A MEDICAL EXAMINATION; WILL BE TESTED FOR HIV; WILL HAVE A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE MADE ON THEM.

8. (U) INITIAL ASSISTANCE TO REINTEGRATE EX-COMBATANTS: 2,400 MT OF RICE AND 244MT OF OIL WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EX-COMBATANTS WHETHER AT THE CENTERS OR IN THEIR COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN; 256 BALES OF SHIRTS, 46 BALES OF SKIRTS, 46 BALES OF BLOUSES, 256 BALES OF TROUSERS AND 300 BALES OF SNEAKERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE EX-COMBATANTS. THE EX-COMBATANTS WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN.

9. (U) SUB-PROGRAM 2, CHILDFIGHTERS: FOCUS WILL BE ON WAR TRAUMA COUNSELLING. THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN WAR IS NOT UNIQUE TO LIBERIA. TRADITIONALLY, YOUTHS HAVE BEEN PREPARED AT VERY YOUNG AGE IN MANY CULTURES TO BECOME WARRIORS. IN THE LIBERIAN CIVIL WAR NOT ALL CHILDREN WERE ENGAGED IN BATTLE. SOME WERE INVOLVED IN COOKING, CLEANING, GATHERING INFORMATION/INTELLIGENCE, CARRYING WEAPONS, RUNNING ERRANDS, GUARDING PRISONERS AND PATROLLING. OTHERS HAVE FOUGHT OR WERE FORCED TO COMMIT ATROCITIES, SOMETIMES AGAINST THEIR OWN FAMILIES. STUDIES CONDUCTED BY LOIC AND UNICEF IN LIBERIA, AS WELL AS ANECDOTAL INFORMATION, INDICATE THAT THE FOLLOWING REASONS MAY BE APPLICABLE TO THE SITUATION OF YOUNG LIBERIAN FIGHTERS:

A. MANPOWER SHORTAGES: ALL WARRING FACTIONS IN LIBERIA HAVE RECRUITED YOUNG PEOPLE TO FILL THEIR QUOTA IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. THE REASON IS CLEAR. THESE YOUNGSTERS NORMALLY HAVE NO FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARE HEALTHY. THEY ARE ALSO EASILY CONTROLLED AND NATURALLY OBEY ADULTS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOME WERE PICKED UP FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AFTER BEING SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND ENDED UP JOINING THE FIGHTING RANKS.

B. FOOD: MANY YOUNGSTERS REPORTED IN INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LOIC THAT THEY JOINED THE WARRING FACTIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE A SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES, AS WELL AS TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES FROM HARASSMENT. THESE YOUNGSTERS HAVE NOW NO SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT AND MAY THEREFORE REMAIN FIGHTERS TO ENSURE

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THEIR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL. NOT ONLY DO THEY FEEL THAT THE "ARMY" CARES FOR THEM, BUT THE GUN IN THEIR HANDS ALLOWS THEM TO "EXTRACT" FOOD FORCIBLY FROM THE POPULATION.

C. REVENGE: LIBERIAN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ATROCITIES AND DEATH. THESE ATROCITIES WERE DOCUMENTED BY UNICEF IN A 1991 STREET CHILDREN SURVEY AND A 1992 TRAUMA MEASUREMENT STUDY, AND BY LOIC IN INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH FORMER COMBATANTS. ATROCITIES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST THEIR TRIBE, THEIR FAMILY OR THEMSELVES. LIBERIAN YOUNGSTERS MAY HAVE TO AVENGE THE GENOCIDE OF THEIR TRIBE, THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF THEIR PARENTS, OR THE MULTIPLE RAPE TO WHICH THEY WERE SUBJECTED.

D. POWER AND PRESTIGE: THE YOUNG AND THE ILLITERATE BOTH BELIEVE THEY GAIN IN PRESTIGE BY BELONGING TO AN "ARMY". THEIR STATUS AS FIGHTERS AND THE RESULTING POWER AND AUTHORITY ARE UNPARALLED TO WHAT THOSE CHILDREN CAN ACHIEVE OTHERWISE. MANY BECOME ALMOST DRUNK WITH POWER AND ABUSE IT.

10. (U) PROBLEMS IN REHABILITATING CHILD SOLDIERS: MANY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIZED. FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES LACK THE ECONOMIC ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHILDREN. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED BY THE WAR. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN PARALYZED AND ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE EVEN THE BASIC SERVICES TO THE POPULATION.

11. (U) PROGRAMS TO HELP CHILD FIGHTERS: ACTIVITIES WILL FOCUS ON SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE AND WILL STRESS THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY AND FAMILY IN THE REHABILITATION PROCESS. THE CHILDREN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP) IS SUGGESTED AS THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FOR THIS PROGRAM, WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF, THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE. THE REPORT ASSUMES THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BE ENCAMPED FOR THREE MONTHS

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION, ALL CHILDREN WILL BE INTERVIEWED INCLUDING THE USE OF THE COLUMBIA INSTRUMENT FOR MEASURING EXPOSURE TO, AND LEVEL OF TRAUMA. ON THE BASIS OF THESE INTERVIEWS, THE CHILD SOLDIERS WILL BE GROUPED AS FOLLOWS:

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GROUP 1: THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT ONLY IN THE 1992 WAR, HAD NO DIRECT COMBAT EXPOSURE, AND EXHIBIT RELATIVELY LOW

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LEVEL OF STRESS, WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBER TO BE 1,500 (25 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ESTIMATED CHILD SOLDIERS.)

GROUP 2: THOSE WHO EXHIBIT HIGHER LEVELS OF STRESS OR PTSD, OR WHO CANNOT BE IMMEDIATELY REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES, WILL BE PUT INTO A 2 - 3 MONTH RESIDENTIAL REORIENTATION PROGRAM. WE ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBER TO BE 3,600 OR 60 PER CENT OF TOTAL ESTIMATED CHILD SOLDIERS.

GROUP 3: THE "HARD CORE" GROUP WHO FOUGHT IN THE 1990 WAR AS WELL AS THE 1992 WAR OR WHO EXHIBIT HIGH LEVELS OF PTSD, DRUG ADDICTION OR SYMPTOMS OF PSYCHIATRIC DISTURBANCE WILL BE PUT INTO A LONGER RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM, SIX MONTHS IN DURATION. WE ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBER TO BE 900, 15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ESTIMATED CHILD SOLDIERS.

- FOR THE CHILDREN IN GROUP 1, THE COMMUNITY WILL BE SENSITIZED TO THE NEED TO ACCEPT AND FORGIVE THE FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS. SCHOOL POLICIES WILL BE MODIFIED TO ALLOW THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOL DESPITE BEING OVERAGE; TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS IN RURAL SCHOOLS; INCLUDE PEACE EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM AND PROVIDE TRAUMA COUNSELLING SERVICES IN SCHOOLS. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES WILL BE FURNISHED FOR AFTERNOON LITERACY PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS. VOCATIONAL TRAINING WILL BE ENCOURAGED.

- FOR THE CHILDREN IN GROUP 2, A TWO TO THREE MONTH RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS IN GROUP 2 WILL CENTER ON EXTENSIVE TRACING AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES, PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING, RECREATION, SHORT TERM SKILLS TRAINING (MOSTLY THERAPEUTIC IN NATURE) SUCH AS MAT WEAVING, BASKET MAKING, AND POTTERY. LITERACY WILL BE EMPHASIZED. A BASIC LITERACY PROGRAM CAN BE OFFERED TO THE ILLITERATE, OFFERING THEM A USEFUL SKILL IN REHABILITATING THEMSELVES. REPORTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WILL BE USED. FACILITIES SUCH AS THE NCRDP (NIMBA COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT) IN SACLEPEA, BOYS TOWN, OR LIMCO COMPOUND IN BUCHANAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR USE BY THIS GROUP.

- FOR THE CHILDREN IN GROUP 3, A SIX MONTH RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR DEMOBILIZED CHILD SOLDIERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED. EXTENSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING, COUPLED WITH PSYCHIATRIC CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED. LITERACY, REORIENTATION TO SCHOOL, RECREATION, AND SKILLS WILL BE

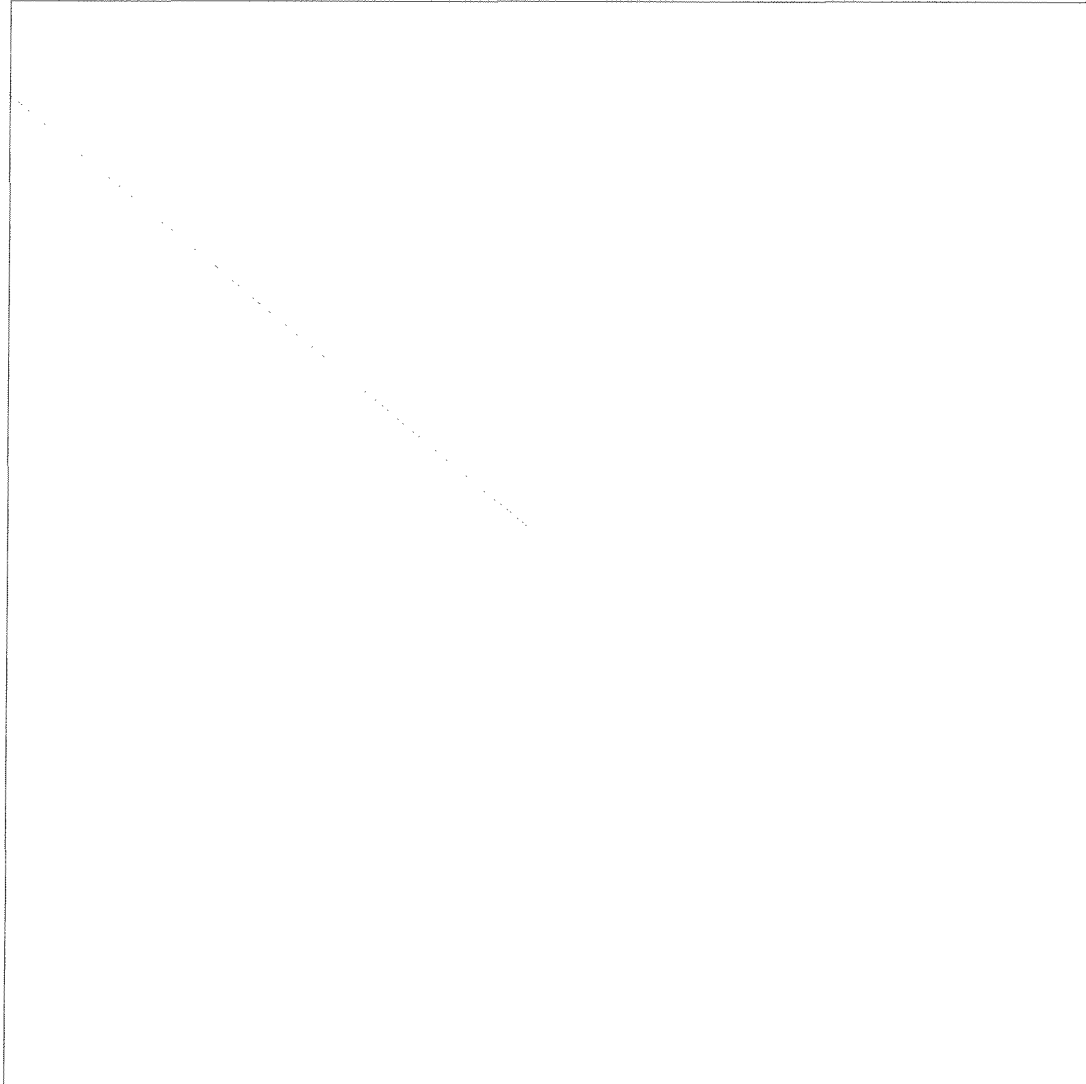
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STRESSED. VOCATIONAL TRAINING WILL BE EMPHASIZED. THE GROUP 3 PROGRAM WILL BE AT THE FORMER PEACE CORPS TRAINING SITE IN KLAY, BOMI COUNTY.

12. (U) COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS: THIS PROGRAM WILL ASSIST COMMUNITIES TO REBUILD THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND HOUSING. ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED. THIS PROJECT IS AIMED AT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE INCLUDING DISPLACED AND REFUGEES. THE NGOS IN COLLABORATION WITH UN AGENCIES WILL IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM. COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES WILL IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS. PROJECTS WHICH HAVE A HIGH LABOR BASE, ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY ORIENTED AND SUSTAINABLE WILL BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY. HIGH USE WILL BE MADE OF DEMOBILIZED COMBATANTS.

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WARLIKE MATERIALS. THE UN OBSERVERS SHALL MONITOR ALL SUCH ACTIVITIES. FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE CEASEFIRE, ECOMOG SHALL CONDUCT ANY SEARCH TO RECOVER LOST OR HIDDEN WEAPONS, OBSERVED AND MONITORED BY THE UN OBSERVERS. SOURCE B TOLD RO THAT ECOMOG WILL ACTIVELY SEARCH FOR WEAPONS. THE WEAPONS INITIALLY WILL BE PLACED IN ARMORIES AT THE ENCAMPMENT SITES BUT EVENTUALLY WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN TO ECOMOG HQ. FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE WEAPONS HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED. ONE OPTION IS TO SELECT SOME WEAPONS AND RETAIN THEM FOR THE NEW LIBERIAN ARMY WHICH EVENTUALLY WOULD BE FORMED. THE REMAINDER COULD BE PLACED ON SHIPS AND TAKEN OUT TO THE SEAS AND DUMPED.

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