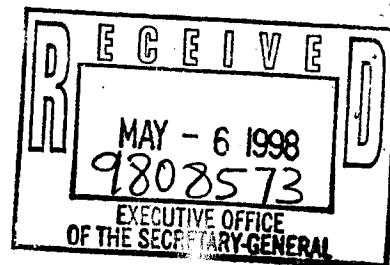




State House

Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone



4th May, 1998.

The Secretary-General
United Nations General Assembly
NEW YORK

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the decision of the Security Council, on the basis of your report and request, to despatch a preliminary group of 10 (ten) military officers that will cooperate with your Special Envoy in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Okelo. I am confident that you will continue the efforts to ensure that the Council reaches a decision on the original plan for a Peace-Keeping Force in Sierra Leone.

In our review of Security Council Resolution 1132(1997), it is regrettable that the normal exemptions for a peace-keeping group as was done for Liberia was not part of that resolution. With the removal of the junta, and the present on-going mopping up operations, ECOMOG is preparing for the deployment of its forces in accordance with ECOWAS decisions. It is contemplated that there will be need to bring in weapons for the use of ECOMOG. In this regard, I am making a specific request through you that the Security Council adopt a new resolution that will authorise an exemption to the UN arms embargo to Sierra Leone with a view to facilitating ECOMOG's operation.

As you are aware ECOMOG has, under difficult conditions performed magnificently. They continue to maintain law and order in all but a very small part of the country. My Government is thus anxious to ensure that ECOMOG has all that is necessary for it to accomplish its task.


ALHAJI DR AHMAD TEJAN KABBAH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
OF SIERRA LEONE