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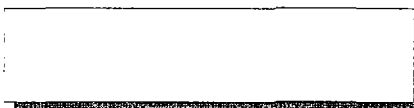
Container **S-0043-0001: DPA - General**

Notes

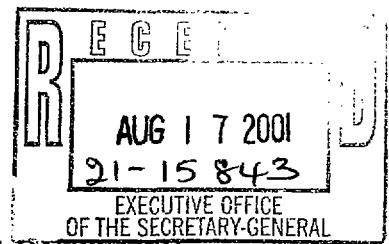
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Note to the Secretary-General

**PREPARATIONS FOR A SUMMIT MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE
OF THE MANO RIVER UNION**

1. Prospects appear to have improved significantly in recent days for the face-to-face meeting among Presidents Conté, Kabbah and Taylor which you, as well as ECOWAS leaders, have long promoted. At a meeting held in Monrovia from 13 to 15 August, the Foreign Ministers of the three Mano River Union member States began preparations for such a summit. Further preparatory meetings, also at the ministerial level, are to follow shortly in Freetown and Conakry. It is expected that the date and venue for the proposed summit will be determined at the Conakry gathering, set for 10 September.

2. News of the ministerial meeting has been favourably received within the region and beyond, and has generated hopes for a thaw in relations among the three countries which could, in turn, open up opportunities for genuine and sustainable peace in the sub-region. Following a briefing by the Secretariat today, at the request of the Security Council, on the humanitarian and security situation in Liberia, the Council also welcomed the encouraging developments and expressed support for an early summit.

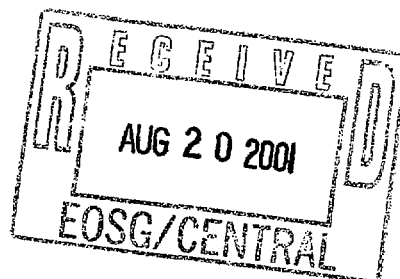
3. The apparent breakthrough is the culmination of many efforts, including those which you have consistently pursued. It also reflects the enormous potential of civil society groups in the sub-region to influence the actions of their leaders. We should therefore like to point out, in particular, the persuasive initiatives taken by the Mano River Union "Women Peace Network" which the Foreign Ministers' communiqué in Monrovia yesterday and the Security Council's press statement today, singled out for special praise.

4. We will keep you informed of further developments.

Dc6 VE

Danilo Türk
16 August 2001

cc: Mr. Riza
Mr. Prendergast
Mr. Mahmoud



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COLOMBIA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Liberia

New York, 16 August 2001

Members of the Council express its concern at the continuation of the fighting in Liberia and urge the parties involved to show restraint and engage in dialogue;

Members of the Council welcome the meeting of the Mano River Union Foreign Ministers from 13 to 15 August and express the hope that the initiative would facilitate and broaden prospects for enhanced cooperation and sustainable peace throughout the sub-region and encourage the ongoing initiatives at promoting a meeting of the Heads of States of the Mano River Union;

Members of the Council call on the Liberian Government to pursue all peaceful avenues towards ending the fighting inside the country, which is causing severe humanitarian consequences.

Members of the Council stress the need for human rights abuses to cease by whatever parties they are committed;

Members of the Council invite the international community, in particular humanitarian organizations, to continue to provide the necessary assistance to the populations affected by the conflicts, and calls on the donor community to maintain its commitments in providing humanitarian aid to Liberia;

Members of the Council call on the Government of Liberia to allow the safe access to humanitarian agencies and invite all the parties to create the conditions for providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons and to ensure the security of their camps;

Members of the Council reaffirmed the need to comply fully with the embargo under its resolution 1343 prohibiting arms flow to the territory of Liberia

Members of the Council encourage the Mano River Union women Peace Network and other civil society groups to continue their useful efforts to facilitate peace and dialogue in the Mano River Union region;

Members of the Council encourage the Liberian authorities to continue the efforts aimed at national reconciliation.