

**AFTER ACTION REPORT**  
**on the**  
**LIBERIA COMPLEX EMERGENCY**

**April 12 through May 18 1996**

**by**

**ARROWHEAD INTERNATIONAL WILDFIRE  
MANAGEMENT**

**OFDA Library  
1262 New State  
Washington, DC 20523**

Assessment completed by

Lynn Thomas,  
International Consultant  
RAVEN International Consulting

Report prepared by

Lynn Thomas,  
International Consultant  
RAVEN International Consulting

Reviewed and Approved by

  
George A. Roby, General Manager  
Arrowhead International Wildfire Management

***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

- a AFTER ACTION REPORT**
- b SITUATION REPORTS**
- c. MEMORANDUM, CONTRACT HELICOPTER**
- d BULLET LIST FROM DAILY LOG**
- e. COMMODITY ISSUE**
- f LOCAL EDUCATION POSTERS**
- g. MAP OF GREYSTONE COMPOUND**
- h LESSONS LEARNED**

## I. Background

Since 1990 much of Liberia has been affected by a serious internal civil conflict. Over 150,000 persons have been killed since the beginning of this conflict and 1.8 million people out of Liberia's 4.2 million pre-war population have been displaced by the fighting. The capital, Monrovia, had a prewar population of 100,000. As a result of massive population displacement due to the four-year-old conflict, it is estimated that there are 1,300,000 persons living in Monrovia.

On April 6, 1996, fighting in Monrovia erupted among the various armed factions causing a population movement resulting in several concentrations of displaced persons. The second largest mass of displaced persons (Voice of America Camp being the largest) is at the Greystone compound which is a long-term lease to the U.S. Embassy. The violence throughout Liberia has increased the difficulty of providing immediate emergency relief. This is compounded by the looting of the non-government organizations (NGO's) vehicles and warehouses and the security conditions that remain unpredictable due to the random and sporadic fighting in the Monrovia area.

During 12 April and 18 May, 1996, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance provided a two-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to the U.S. Embassy of Monrovia, Liberia, for technical assistance in the humanitarian efforts in the Monrovia area. The objective was to do an assessment on health, water, and sanitation primarily in the Greystone Compound and to coordinate with the remaining NGO's that were in Liberia or were returning to Monrovia. The U.S. Embassy had been able to do some food distribution in the Monrovia area, to whom and how much of what was never established.

Logistics in Liberia are difficult because of the fighting that has caused the general closure of the normal supply lines into the country and travel throughout Monrovia. Although the airstrip is still intact, the control tower is no longer usable, nor is the security for any aircraft, nor the transport to secure area possible at this time. The port was somewhat secure and is the warehousing for the World Food Program (WFP) food commodities. However, the transport of commodities from the warehouses to the displaced persons' camps are undependable due to the ever changing security and transport problems.

## **II GENERAL SITUATION**

On 19 April, the two-member DART conducted an assessment of the Greystone compound about 100 yards walking distance northeast of the U S Embassy. The compound is approximately 17.5 acres and is under a long-term lease to the U S Embassy for residential housing. There are several structures on the compound that serve as housing, warehouses and a fuel farm for the Embassy. The compound was used in 1991 as a displaced persons' camp because of a similar conflict then. One of the main reasons the compound is sought out for refuge is that it is considered safe because of its close proximity to the U S Embassy and the Embassy contract security (INTER-CON).

## **III. WATER**

There are two water sources in the compound, one is a 40-foot deep borehole (well) at the lower east end of the compound and the other is a 70,000-liter reservoir located in the northwest corner of the compound. The borehole was the only water source being used at the time of the first assessment as the reservoir was empty and the only resupply is water trucks hauling from Whiteplains water plant or Bushrod pumping station.

## **IV SANITATION**

There were a few old latrines left over from the 1991 conflict that were being used, but for the most part there were no improved facilities in use. The rocky areas were the common defecation sites. Runoff from rainfall flows down these rocky slopes by the well where water is being drawn by pails that rest in the puddles around the well casing.

## **V. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

- 1 Improved water quality at well site by scheduled chlorination
- 2 Provided water bladders for potable water and tap stands for distribution
- 3 Coordinated replumbing of existing water system to provide for greater holding capacity and safer delivery of potable water
- 4 Provided materials to NGO's for water system in Greystone
- 5 Coordinated Embassy and NGO's on water delivery
- 6 Coordinated with NGO's on sanitation education program
- 7 Provided materials for latrine construction
- 8 Provided plastic sheeting to NGO's and DHA for distribution for temporary shelter
- 9 Provided tents and water containers to NGO's for health units

- 10 Provided W H O kits to MSF for treatment of the sick and injured
- 11 Provided communications to some NGO's
- 12 Provided transport on contract helicopter for NGO's and their supplies
- 13 Provided coordination and served as a focal point to NGO's on priority projects
- 14 Provided technical support to the U S Embassy in humanitarian efforts

- 1 -

## Situation Reports\*\*

### Summary of DART Health/Medical Activities Monrovia, Liberia

#### CURRENT SITUATION

On 22 April, Dr Eric Noji, Chief of CDC's emergency and refugee health unit worked with Liberian Red Cross medical unit staff in collecting and analyzing statistics from a disease and injury monitoring system implemented by the Liberian Red Cross with assistance from CDC in order to determine the major medical problems experienced by the displaced population in Greystone from 8 April until 19 April. Results of this health and medical data will be useful in determining priority health and medical needs (supplies, equipment, medications and personnel) of the population (See Table 1)

Table 1  
Patients treated in Greystone from 8-19 April  
CDC/Liberian Red Cross Camp Surveillance System

Total treated at clinic                      4,671  
Deaths    12

Major Diseases and Injuries	Numbers
Bullet Wounds	1,032
Rocket Wounds	576
Fever (?Malaria)	531
Moderate Diarrhea	372
Cough	178
Accidents	77
Headache	77
CHOLERA*	47
Fungal Infections	41
Deliveries	22
Hypertension	3
Measles	3
Asthma	1
Other	340
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,312</b>

\* Unconfirmed as of this date (4/22/96)

\*\* Pages 1-4 are retyped copy of Dr Eric Noji's DART Health and Medical Activity Report

Page 2 - Summary of DART Health/Medical Activities

The total approximate population of the IDP camp is approximately 15,000. In general, health workers should be extremely concerned when death rates in a displaced population exceed 1/10,000/day. Fortunately, in the Greystone compound the death rate is only 0.6/10,000/day.

Since April 8th, a total of 4,671 patients have been treated at the Red Cross clinic. There have been 12 deaths, mostly from injuries sustained from gunshot or rocket wounds (1,032 bullet wounds and 576 rocket wounds).

Death rates have actually decreased since week 1, with no deaths reported at the clinic since April 16th. Since April 8th, there have been a total of 47 "cholera" cases reported (with a high of 21 on April 9), however, there have only been nine cases reported in the last week. The very low number of measles cases reported (3) may indicate a good pre-existing immunization program in Liberia, but I would still consider instituting a measles vaccination program since measles is one of the greatest killers in refugee camps and even one case can be considered worrisome.

**MAJOR PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED**

Although the situation in the compound has not yet reached critical proportions, several problems have been identified in this survey that may portend serious problems in the near future.

1. Poor overall water quality, and poor hygienic practices of food handlers, and inadequate sanitation facilities (lack of toilets, indiscriminate defecation including very near the only source of drinking water in the compound) particularly in the Greystone compound. There are reports that water is being contaminated even further or recontaminated sometime between collection at the one well and household use. I am so concerned about the sanitation problem in Greystone (particularly regarding the shortage of latrines and indiscriminate defecation) that I feel that unless the situation is appropriately addressed, a cholera epidemic is very possible.
2. Increased incidence of childhood communicable diseases.

Diarrheal diseases, fever (possibly malaria), and acute respiratory infections (ARI) are the leading causes of morbidity. Other important communicable diseases among the displaced population include tuberculosis, skin (fungal) infections such as scabies and eye diseases.

## Page 3 - Summary of DART Health/Medical Activities

In addition, epidemics of severe diarrheal disease which is probably cholera, have occurred in the Greystone compound (see above)

3 Uncertain immunization status of under-5 population (3 cases of measles were sent by the Liberian Red Cross health station to hospital I felt that a 4th child also displayed signs of clinical measles) My concern is that outbreaks of measles in refugee camps have been common and have caused many deaths in other settings

4 Shortages of key supplies, equipment, and medications (e g , essential drugs such as antibiotics, surgical material, blood pressure cuffs, ORS and IV fluids such as Ringer's Lactate)

5 Injuries

At intermittent times, violence-related trauma has been a significant factor in both mortality and morbidity (e g , penetrating trauma from gunshot wounds, blast injuries from rockets, etc )

6 Shortages of key supplies, equipment, and medications (e g , essential drugs such as antibiotics, surgical material, blood pressure cuffs, ORS and IV fluids such as Ringer's Lactate)

7 Poor overall information management and coordination  
It is generally difficult to obtain accurate basic demographic information (e g , population numbers, age/sex distribution) and other health statistics about the displaced population in the Greystone compound due to the security situation — all US government staff require an armed escort to enter the compound

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1 Provide material support for the Liberian Red Cross, the only NGO currently able to work in the Greystone IDP compound

2 Provide adequate amounts of potable water, either by bringing in outside water tanks, and/or chlorinating the well that provides the sole source of water to the Greystone compound population (goal should be to provide a minimum of 20 L/person/day)

3 At all costs, areas of defecation should be separated from areas where potable water are obtained (e g , defecation field) Later, one can construct regular latrines — the goals should be to provide one latrine for every twenty persons)

4 Institute community hygiene campaign (e g , soap distribution and stress importance of handwashing)

5 Clearly designate area of disposal of solid waste so as not to

Page 4 - Summary of DART Health/Medical Activities

attract animals, vermin and other pests

- 6 Establish separate tent for management of patients with severe diarrhea or cholera (oral rehydration unit)
- 7 Provide supplies and medications for management of severe diarrhea such as cholera (see Appendix 1 for supplies, medications delivered by OFDA DART to the Liberian Red Cross health post for management of severe diarrhea and surgical emergencies on 21 April)
- 8 Provide supplies and equipment for management of penetrating trauma (see Appendix 1)
- 9 Facilitate arrival of MSF-Belgium team from Freetown consisting of overall health/medical coordinator, water-sanitation expert and general surgeon. Recommend that the MSF team bring the following (1) WHO Emergency Kit, (2) MSF water/chlorination kit 10,000 people for two weeks, (3) cholera management kit
- 10 Confirm diagnosis of cholera—may require liaison with MSF team in Freetown with access to laboratory
- 11 If security situation improves enough for expatriate staff to work in hospitals in other parts of Monrovia, support work of emergency medical or surgical groups if they decide to return to Monrovia (e.g., MSF, IMC)
- 12 Need to conduct an immunization survey of under-fives in the Greystone compound in order to determine if measles vaccination campaign warranted in the Greystone compound

Appendix 1

Medical supplies, drugs and equipment delivered to the Liberian Red Cross Health Post in Greystone displaced person compound from US Embassy by OFDA/DART

Item Description	Quantity
<b>CHOLERA TREATMENT</b>	
Oral rehydration salts	Four boxes
Ringers Lactate	5 bags
Tetracycline 250 mg	500
<b>OTHER DIARRHEAL DISEASES</b>	
Amoxicillin 250 mg	1000
<b>GENERAL MEDICATIONS</b>	
Paracetamol 500 mg	500 tablets
Chloroquine 150 mg	2,500
ASA 300 mg	3,000
Paracetamol 100 mg	500
Metronidazole 250 mg	1000
Mebendazole 100 mg	1000
Co-trimoxazole 100 mg	2000
<b>SURGICAL EQUIPMENT</b>	
Hydrophilic bandage	3 packs
Crepe bandage	1 pack
Gauze bandage	1 pack
Adhesive tape	3 packs
Compress	2 packs
Iodine 200 ml	2 Liters
Gentian violet	4 pints
Surgical Dressing Sets	1 pack
Scissors	1
Surgical gloves	2 packages
Dressing sets	1 pack
<b>GENERAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT</b>	
Emergency Kit (General Medical Supplies, such as BP cuff, stethoscope)	1 box
Needles 19 g	2 packs
Needles 23 g	1 pack
Syringes 10 ml	58

Appendix 1 (Continued)

Surgical sutures	2 packs
Soap	4 packs
Thermometer	5

AUTH  
DRFT  
CLN1  
CLN2  
CLN3  
CLN4  
CLN5

UNCLASSIFIED  
AID 04/24/96  
AID LELYNCH  
AID TDOLAN/LELYNCH  
AID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC, IMMEDIATE  
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE, PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC, PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS, PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN, PRIORITY  
USUN NEW YORK, PRIORITY

AIDAC

AID/W FOR BHR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI AND AFR/WA  
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W AND PRM  
SECDEF ALSO FOR OSD/HRA  
NSC FOR RICE AND DESHAZER  
FREETOWN ALSO FOR EDRC J SNYDER  
GENEVA FOR USAID  
ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WCA  
LONDON FOR JYOUNG  
ROME FOR FODAG

E O 12356 N/A

TAGS

SUBJECT LIBERIA DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT OF APRIL  
29, 1996

1 SUMMARY CONDITIONS AT THE USEMBASSY GREYSTONE  
COMPOUND HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED DUE TO WATER,  
SANITATION AND HEALTH INITIATIVES AND THE GRADUAL  
DECREASING OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION (IDP)  
HEALTH PROBLEMS REMAIN INCLUDING DIARRHEAL DISEASES AND  
MEASLES THE EXTENSIVE LOOTING OF HUMANITARIAN  
COMMODITIES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IS HAMPERING

UNCLASSIFIED

TARGETED RELIEF ACTIVITIES A USAID/DART IS DEPLOYED TO MONROVIA TO ASSIST USEMBASSY PERSONNEL IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS END SUMMARY

2 AS AN AFTERMATH OF THE CHAOS, KILLING AND LOOTING WHICH HAS PLAGUED MONROVIA SINCE APRIL 6, MORE THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS SOUGHT REFUGE AT THE USEMBASSY COMPOUND OF GREYSTONE LOCATED A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE MAIN USEMBASSY GREYSTONE IS AN 18 ACRE RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND SURROUNDED BY WALLS WITH LIMITED GATE ACCESS THE COMPOUND HAS A ROCKY TERRAIN, SMALL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL AND STORAGE BUILDINGS AND A SINGLE WATER SOURCE FROM A WELL CURRENT ESTIMATES OF THE IDP POPULATION AT GREYSTONE ARE DOWN TO 9,000 WITH MANY GRADUALLY DEPARTING BACK TO THEIR HOMES AS A TENUOUS AND UNPREDICTABLE CALM CONTINUES THE COMPOUND HAS BECOME AN OPEN MARKET WHERE FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES LIKELY LOOTED DURING THE EARLIER RAMPAGES ARE OFFERED FOR SALE BY THOSE WHO HAVE STAKED OUT SPACE ALONG THE MAIN WALKING PATHWAYS

3 THE AVAILABILITY OF CLEAN DRINKABLE WATER IN GREYSTONE WAS AND CONTINUES AS A TOP PRIORITY WITH THE SUDDEN LARGE INFUX OF IDPS REQUIRING WATER IN THE COMPOUND AND THE DETERIORATING SANITATION CONDITIONS, THE WATER SITUATION BECAME MORE ACUTE THE QUALITY OF THE WATER IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE REPORTED NUMBERS WITH DIARRHEAL DISEASE AS WELL AS SUSPECTED AND YET UNCONFIRMED CHOLERA CASES IN THE COMPOUND IMMEDIATE STEPS WERE TAKEN TO CORDON OFF THE WELL FROM THE POST-RAIN FLOW OF HUMAN FECES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS USAID/DART WAS ABLE TO AIR TRANSPORT CHLORINE POWDER INTO MONROVIA WHICH WAS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF THE WELL WATER SUPPLY NEXT STEPS INCLUDE USING TRUCKED WATER FROM TREATED WATER SOURCES TO BE STORED IN 2 WATER TOWERS ADJACENT TO THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND, PLACE A 10,000 LITER WATER STORAGE BLADDER AS A BACKUP NEAR THE WELL SITE, AND ULTIMATELY SEAL, TREAT AND COMPLETELY DISINFECT THE CURRENT WELL FOR WATER USE OTHER THAN DRINKING A WATER AND SANITATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MSF, ICRC, AICF, LOCAL WATER AUTHORITIES, UN/DHA, EUROPEAN UNION REP AND USAID MET ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TO IMPLEMENT A WORK PLAN TO MAXIMIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER THROUGHOUT MONROVIA INCLUDING GREYSTONE AND OTHER IDP CAMPS

4 GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AT THE GREYSTONE ARE IMPROVING AS WATER QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY IS ADDRESSED, BUT REPORTED MEASLES CASES AND DIARRHEAL DISEASE CONTINUE TO BE MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS THE LIBERIAN RED CROSS WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE AT THE COMPOUND SINCE THE INFLUX OF IDPS REPORTED THAT IN THE PERIOD 8-19 APRIL, ALMOST 50% OR 1,608 PATIENTS TREATED AT THE COMPOUND WERE AS A RESULT OF BULLET AND ROCKET WOUNDS THERE WERE 12 DEATHS REPORTED DURING THIS PERIOD DISEASES INCLUDED FEVER/POSSIBLY MALARIA (531 CASES), MODERATE DIARRHEA (372), SEVERE DIARRHEA/SUSPECTED CHOLERA (47)

5 SUSPECTED CHOLERA SPECIMENS WERE COLLECTED AND SENT BY MSF TO THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE FOR LABORATORY CONFIRMATION EXPECTED LATER THIS WEEK IN THE INTERIM, THE AVAILABILITY OF CLEAN WATER, ORAL REHYDRATION THERAPY AND APPROPRIATE ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY APPEARS TO BE DEALING WITH THE SITUATION MEASLES IS OF GREAT CONCERN WITH 9 CASES REPORTED IN THE PERIOD 22-24 APRIL MSF BEGAN A MEASLES IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IN THE COMPOUND AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF VACCINE, SYRINGES AND COLD CHAIN TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE SOME 212 CHILDREN WERE IMMUNIZED THE FIRST DAY AND THE GOAL IS TO REACH MORE THAN 2,000 CHILDREN IN GREYSTONE AND THE ADJACENT AREA THERE WAS ALSO 22 BIRTH DELIVERIES AT THE COMPOUND FOR THE PERIOD 8-19 APRIL CURRENTLY SEVERELY SICK AND INJURED PATIENTS ARE BEING TRANSPORTED FROM THE COMPOUND TO HOSPITALS BY THE RED CROSS FOR CONTINUED CARE SWEDE RELIEF HOSPITAL HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A PRIMARY RECEIVING HOSPITAL FOR PATIENTS SUSPECTED OF SUFFERING FROM CHOLERA AND IS ALMOST AT FULL CAPACITY, WITH JOHN F KENNEDY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PROJECTED TO THEN START RECEIVING CHOLERA-SUSPECTED PATIENTS IN THE COMING DAYS

6 THE MASSIVE LOOTING OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF COMMODITIES SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT HAS TAKEN ITS TRAGIC TOLL ON RELIEF OPERATIONS MSF/INTERNATIONAL HAS ONE REMAINING VEHICLE OF ITS ORIGINAL 53 THE LIBERIAN RED CROSS AND INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETIES (IFRC) HAVE HAD ALL THEIR VEHICLES STOLEN WITH MANY BEING USED BY GANGS AS BATTLE WAGONS THE LOOTING CONTINUES WITH 3 UN VEHICLES REPORTED STOLEN OR HIJACKED IN THE LAST 48 HOUR PERIOD THE LONGER TERM

UNCLASSIFIED

4

IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THIS RAMPAGE ON NGOS AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE YET TO BE CALCULATED, BUT ITS NEAR TERM EFFECTS ARE CLEARLY EVIDENT

7 USAID/OFDA DEPLOYED A DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TEAM (DART) IN MONROVIA TO ASSIST THE AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL, SPECIFICALLY THE USAID/LIBERIA REPRESENTATIVE, IN MANAGING THIS HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ASSESSMENT AND ACTIVITIES ARE FOCUSED ON PRIORITY TARGETED INTERVENTIONS DEALING WITH WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH NGOS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, UN AGENCIES AND OTHER SUPPORTING DONORS THE ABSENCE OF A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IS THE CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR ACHIEVING THESE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATIONS MILAM##

UNCLASSIFIED

10

AUTH  
DRFT  
CLN1  
CLN2  
CLN3  
CLN4  
CLN5

UNCLASSIFIED  
AID 05/02/96  
AID LELYNCH  
AID TDOLAN/LELYNCH  
AID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC, IMMEDIATE  
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE, PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC, PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS, PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN, PRIORITY  
USUN NEW YORK, PRIORITY

AIDAC

AID/W FOR BHR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI AND AFR/WA  
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W AND PRM  
SECDEF ALSO FOR OSD/HRA  
NSC FOR RICE AND DESHAZER  
FREETOWN ALSO FOR EDRC J SNYDER  
GENEVA FOR USAID  
ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WCA  
LONDON FOR JYOUNG  
ROME FOR FODAG

E O 12356 N/A

TAGS

SUBJECT LIBERIA DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT OF  
MAY 2, 1996

1 SUMMARY FIGHTING IN THE EASTERN PART OF MONROVIA  
INCLUDES NOT ONLY WHOLESALE LOOTING BUT ALSO RAPE AND  
OTHER ATROCITIES THE FIGHTING CONTINUES TO CAUSE LARGE  
NUMBERS OF DISPLACED PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY WITH  
THE POPULATION IN THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND ESTIMATED NOW  
AT NEW HIGHS WFP FOOD DELIVERIES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED  
FOR A THIRD DAY DUE TO SECURITY BUT FOOD WAREHOUSES IN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

2

THE PORT ARE REPORTEDLY STILL IN TACT      ADDITIONAL  
USAID/OFDA RELIEF SUPPLIES ARE STAGED FOR TRANSPORT INTO  
MONROVIA ON FRIDAY SECURITY PERMITTING      END SUMMARY

2      THE UN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE COORDINATION OFFICE  
(HACO) REPRESENTATIVES IN MONROVIA REPORTED ON MAY 1  
THAT THE FIGHTING IN MATADI, SINKOR AND CONGOTOWN  
SUBURBS IN THE EASTERN PART OF MONROVIA HAD GONE BEYOND  
THE CHARACTERISTIC WHOLESALE LOOTING TO INCLUDE RANDOM  
KILLINGS, BUTCHERING, RAPES AND OTHER ATROCITIES ON A  
MASSIVE SCALE      THE SAME SOURCES REPORTED THIS MORNING  
THAT THE EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WERE NOW ALSO  
BEING COMMITTED IN THE PAYNESVILLE-REDLIGHT AND ELWA  
JUNCTION AREAS      THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED  
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN HIS POSITION  
AS THE GOVERNMENT'S COORDINATOR OF RELIEF EFFORTS      HIS  
RESIGNATION IS IN PROTEST OVER THE COUNCIL OF STATE'S  
FAILURE TO TAKE ANY STEPS TO BRING THE FIGHTING UNDER  
CONTROL AND REDUCE THE SUFFERING AMONG THE CIVILIAN  
POPULATION

3      CONDITIONS AT THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND HAVE WORSENERED  
IN THE LAST DAYS AS THE POPULATION IS NOW ESTIMATED AT  
NEW HIGHS SURPASSING 20,000      THERE ARE REPORTS FROM THE  
COMPOUND OF MANY VICTIMS OF KNIFE AND BULLET WOUNDS AND  
THE BODIES OF THE DEAD BEING CARRIED OUTSIDE THE  
COMPOUND FOR BURIAL      THE LIBERIAN RED CROSS CONVEYED  
THAT IN THE LAST DAYS THREE CHILDREN IN THE COMPOUND  
DIED FROM MEASLES, AND CASES OF DIARRHEAL DISEASE AND  
SUSPECTED CHOLERA CONTINUE      THIS MORNING (THURSDAY, MAY  
2) A CONVOY OF MSF PERSONNEL AND A MOBILE MEDICAL TEAM  
FROM SWEDERELIEF HOSPITAL WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MAKING THE  
TREACHEROUS JOURNEY ACROSS THE BRIDGE TO THE GREYSTONE  
COMPOUND TO DROP A SMALL AMOUNT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES  
ECOMOG, HAVING HAD ONE OF ITS TRUCKS SHOT AT EARLIER IN  
THE DAY AT THE BRIDGE, HAS REFUSED TO PROVIDE ESCORT OF  
ADDITIONAL HUMANITARIAN RELIEF COMMODITIES FOR THE  
COMPOUND      THE AREA AROUND THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND IS  
FURTHER COMPLICATED BY A LACK OF SECURITY WHERE THE  
SOUND OF WEAPON FIRE IS REGULARLY HEARD      THE EMBASSY  
HAS PROVIDED SMALL QUANTITIES OF FOOD FOR RED CROSS  
WORKERS, WHO HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN THE ONLY SOURCE OF  
MEDICAL CARE IN THE COMPOUND, BUT THE EROSION OF  
SECURITY CONDITIONS HAS ESSENTIALLY PARALYZED THE RELIEF  
ACTIVITIES INITIATED IN THE LAST DAYS IN IMMUNIZING  
CHILDREN FOR MEASLES, MAKING AVAILABLE ADEQUATE DRINKING

UNCLASSIFIED

12

WATER AND IMPROVING THE OVERALL SANITATION CONDITIONS

4 THE MOST RECENT FIGHTING HAS ALSO CREATED MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEMS FOR UNESCORTED TRAVEL BY ROAD, WITH MANY SECTIONS OF THE CITY BEING CUT OFF FROM THE REST, SUCH AS IS THE CASE WITH THE CITY CENTER AND BUSHROD ISLAND USAID/DART HAS CONSEQUENTLY BEEN EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF MOVING RELIEF SUPPLIES AND PEOPLE AROUND MONROVIA ONE ALTERNATIVE IS TO USE HELICOPTERS TO HOP FROM ONE SECTION, SUCH AS ECOMOG BASE OR RIVERVIEW, TO ANOTHER, SUCH AS THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND AREA

5 DELIVERIES OF FOOD AID ARE SUSPENDED FOR A THIRD DAY BECAUSE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS OUTSIDE THE PORT AND IN MANY OTHER AREAS AROUND THE CITY MOST OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS SHELTERS, HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, ORPHANAGES, AND OTHER DISTRIBUTION POINTS HAD JUST RECEIVED DELIVERIES BEFORE THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF FIGHTING STARTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK WFP HOPES TO RESUME DELIVERIES TOMORROW

6 EARLY THIS AFTERNOON ECOMOG HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE ESCORTS FOR CONVOYS TO TAKE FOOD AID AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES TO TWO LOCATIONS WHERE LOTS OF NEEDY CIVILIANS HAVE CONGREGATED AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S FIGHTING ONE AREA IS THE VICINITY OF SIXTEENTH STREET IN SINKOR, WHERE ECOMOG SAYS 10,000 PEOPLE HAVE RELOCATED AROUND THE VAMOMA HOUSE CHECKPOINT THE OTHER LOCATION IS SCHIEFFLIN, WHICH HAS BEEN THE MAIN BARRACKS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA, WHERE 7,000 PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED, ACCORDING TO ECOMOG UNHACO, WFP, THE NGO'S, AND USAID/DART ARE PREPARING TO CONDUCT A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THESE TWO LOCATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

7 ADDITIONAL USAID/OFDA EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES ARE STAGED IN FREETOWN FOR DELIVERY FRIDAY INTO MONROVIA IF SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMIT THESE SUPPLIES INCLUDE WATER PUMPS, 10,000 LITER STORAGE BLADDERS, AND CONTAINERS, SHELTER MATERIAL, BLANKETS AND OTHER SUPPLIES WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN THE GREYSTONE AND OTHER DISPLACED CAMPS SECURE STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION IS A CONTINUING CONCERN GIVEN THE PRECARIOUS ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONAL REALITIES MILAM##

AUTH  
DRFT  
CLN1  
CLN2  
CLN3  
CLN4  
CLN5

UNCLASSIFIED  
AID 05/06/96  
AID LELYNCH  
AID TDOLAN/LELYNCH  
AID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC, IMMEDIATE  
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE, PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC, PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS, PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, PRIORITY  
USUN NEW YORK, PRIORITY

AIDAC

AID/W FOR BHR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI AND AFR/WA  
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W AND PRM  
SECDEF ALSO FOR OSD/HRA  
NSC FOR RICE AND DESHAZER  
FREETOWN ALSO FOR EDRC J SNYDER  
GENEVA FOR USAID  
ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WCA  
LONDON FOR JYOUNG  
ROME FOR FODAG

E O 12356 N/A

TAGS

SUBJECT LIBERIA DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT OF  
MAY 6, 1996

1 SUMMARY USEMBASSY GREYSTONE COMPOUND TEEMING WITH  
DISPLACED AS FIGHTING CONTINUES AND FIRES ENGULF  
BUILDINGS IN ADJACENT AND DOWNTOWN AREAS ATTEMPTS AT  
IMPROVING WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH IN THE COMPOUND  
DISRUPTED BY WEAPON FIRE AND ERODING SECURITY MEDICAL  
CONVOY RETURNING SICK AND INJURED FROM GREYSTONE TO  
HOSPITAL IS STOPPED AT CONTESTED BRIDGE AND PATIENTS  
LIVES THREATENED PORT AREA IS INUNDATED WITH PEOPLE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

2

SEEKING TO LEAVE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES A SECOND  
USAID/OFDA CHARTERED HELICOPTER DELIVERED EMERGENCY  
RELIEF SUPPLIES END SUMMARY

2 THE FIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND CONTINUED TO  
FORCE MORE DISPLACED TO SEEK REFUGE IN THE GREYSTONE  
COMPOUND HEAVY SMOKE FROM BURNING BUILDINGS ADJACENT  
TO THE GREYSTONE DARKENED THE SKYLINE WITH REPORTS OF  
THOSE OCCUPYING THE BUILDINGS BEING ATTACKED AND  
MURDERED SECURITY IN THE COMPOUND HAS DETERIORATED  
WITH RENEGADES FORCING ENTRY AND REPORTS OF INDIVIDUALS  
BEING REMOVED FROM THE COMPOUND BY FORCE USAID/DART  
WORKED IN THE COMPOUND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WITH A  
SMALL CADRE OF MSF, AICF AND RED CROSS STAFF IN AN  
ATTEMPT TO JUMP-START WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH  
ACTIVITIES BY MID-DAY ON SUNDAY, AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE  
INTO THE COMPOUND AND AN EVIDENT EROSION OF SECURITY IN  
THE VICINITY FORCED THE DEPARTURE OF ALL INTERNATIONAL  
STAFF FROM THE AREA

3 USAID/DART WITH MSF AND AICF PRIOR TO LEAVING THE  
COMPOUND WAS ABLE TO SET UP TWO 10,000 LITER WATER  
STORAGE BLADDERS AT THE WELL SITE, BUT DETERIORATING  
SECURITY FORCED A POSTPONEMENT OF WATER DELIVERY TO FILL  
THE BLADDERS BY AN EMBASSY TRUCK THE PLAN IS TO  
PROVIDE THOSE IN THE COMPOUND ACCESS TO THE WATER BEING  
TRUCKED, WHILE WELL WATER IS TREATED WITH CHLORINE AND  
THEN EVENTUALLY PUMPED TO THE BLADDERS THIS SHOULD  
ALLOW PEOPLE IN THE COMPOUND ACCESS TO A STEADY FLOW OF  
CLEAN CHLORINATED WATER FROM THESE STORAGE BLADDERS VIA  
A DOZEN TAPS AND REVERSE THE DOWNWARD SPIRALING HEALTH  
CONDITIONS ATTRIBUTED TO CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

4 THE SANITATION SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT IMPROVED WITH  
COMPLETION OF PIT LATRINES DUG IN 4 AREAS OF THE  
COMPOUND ON THE HEALTH FRONT, THE SITUATION IS STILL  
IN LIMBO WITH SECURITY CONDITIONS FORCING THE MEASLES  
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IN THE COMPOUND TO STOP AFTER THE  
FIRST DAY THERE ARE A DOZEN PATIENTS AT ANY ONE TIME  
RECEIVING INTRAVENOUS AND ORAL REHYDRATION SOLUTION  
(OARS) THERAPY BY MSF AND AICF STAFF IN AN AREA ISOLATED  
TO TREAT PATIENTS WITH SEVERE DIARRHEAL DISEASE AND  
SUSPECTED CHOLERA THE RED CROSS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE  
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TO SCORES OF PATIENTS LINED IN FRONT  
OF ITS SPACES LOCAL RED CROSS, AICF AND MSF STAFF HAVE  
REGULARLY SHARED THEIR CONCERN THAT DETERIORATING

UNCLASSIFIED

15

SECURITY CONDITIONS WILL SOON NOT ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING

5 A CONVOY FROM SWEDERELIEF HOSPITAL AND MSF ON SATURDAY (MAY 4) DROVE FOR A SECOND DAY ACROSS THE DANGEROUS AND CONTESTED BRIDGE AREA TO DELIVER SUPPLIES TO THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND ON THEIR RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL WITH 5 PATIENTS, THE CONVOY WAS STOPPED AT THE BRIDGE BY RENEGADES WHO INSISTED THAT THE PATIENTS WERE ENEMIES OF THE FACTION AND WOULD BE KILLED THEY DEMANDED THAT THESE PATIENTS BE OFF-LOADED, BEFORE THE CONVOY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE AFTER MORE THAN 30 MINUTES OF ANXIOUS NEGOTIATION, THE CONVOY WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE ITS PATIENTS TO HOSPITAL THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER REPORTS OF RENEGADES ENTERING SWEDERELIEF HOSPITAL AND DEMANDING THAT PATIENTS BE HANDED OVER STAFF AND PATIENTS AT JOHN F KENNEDY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WERE EARLIER IN THE WEEK ATTACKED AND BEATEN WITH THE FACILITY LOOTED AND, AS A RESULT, MANY OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED LIBERIA HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL DRUG SERVICE WAREHOUSE PACKED WITH EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS IS STILL IN TACT

6 THE PORT AREA HAS BECOME A MECCA OF LIBERIANS DESPERATE TO LEAVE ABOARD THE FEW COMMERCIAL SHIPS TRANSPORTING PASSENGERS TO NEARBY COUNTRIES THERE ARE REPORTS OF 7,000 PEOPLE MASSED IN AND AROUND THE PORT ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE PASSAGE ECOMOG FORCES ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN THE AREA AND, ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM UN PERSONNEL, THE PEACEKEEPERS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN MAINTAINING SECURITY WITHIN THE PORT ITSELF A WFP VESSEL HAS FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN BERTHING AT THE PORT IT WILL LOAD ABOUT 700 METRIC TONS OF FOOD AID AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR BUCHANAN, AND IT IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE LOADING AND DEPART IN THREE DAYS

7 ON SATURDAY (MAY 4) A SECOND USAID/OFDA CHARTERED HELICOPTER LANDED AT THE EMBASSY CARRYING EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES THAT INCLUDED WATER PUMPS, TENTS, BLANKETS, SHELTER MATERIAL, AND WATER CONTAINERS IT ALSO TRANSPORTED AN MSF SURGEON AND NURSE ANESTHETIST WHO WILL BE WORKING IN SWEDERELIEF HOSPITAL THE CONTENTS OF THE SHIPMENT WERE PRIORITIZED FOR DISTRIBUTION AND INCLUDED TWO OF THE 10,000 LITER WATER BLADDERS, TENTS/SHELTER MATERIAL AND OTHER COMMODITIES FOR MSF, AICF AND RED CROSS OPERATIONS IN THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND AND BLANKETS FOR SWEDERELIEF HOSPITAL

AUTH  
DRFT  
CLN1  
CLN2  
CLN3  
CLN4  
CLN5

UNCLASSIFIED  
AID 05/10/96  
AID LELYNCH  
AID TDOLAN/LELYNCH  
AID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC, IMMEDIATE  
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE, PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC, PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS, PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, PRIORITY  
USUN NEW YORK, PRIORITY

AIDAC

AID/W FOR BHR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI AND AFR/WA  
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W AND PRM  
SECDEF ALSO FOR OSD/HRA  
NSC FOR RICE AND DESHAZER  
FREETOWN ALSO FOR EDRC J SNYDER  
GENEVA FOR USAID  
ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WCA  
LONDON FOR JYOUNG  
ROME FOR FODAG

E O 12356 N/A  
TAGS

SUBJECT LIBERIA DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT OF  
MAY 10, 1996

1 SUMMARY USEMBASSY GREYSTONE COMPOUND WATER,  
SANITATION AND HEALTH CONDITIONS IMPROVED NGO, UN AND  
USAID REPS MEET TO SHARE UPDATES ON HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM  
OPERATIONS NGO AND UN REPS MET WITH ECOMOG CHIEF OF  
STAFF TO ADDRESS SECURITY ISSUES END SUMMARY

2 THE LULL IN FIGHTING AROUND THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND

UNCLASSIFIED

17

IN RECENT DAYS HAS PERMITTED HEADWAY IN IMPROVING WATER SANITATION AND HEALTH CONDITIONS FOR THE THOUSANDS STILL CAMPED WITHIN ITS WALLS USEMBASSY AND EUROPEAN UNION WATER TRUCKS ARE DELIVERING CHLORINATED DRINKING WATER DAILY INTO A SINGLE WATER TOWER THAT EARLIER SERVED THE COMPOUND RESIDENCES FROM THIS RESERVOIR, WATER FLOWS THROUGH A CENTRAL STANDPIPE TO DOZENS OF TEMPORARY ACCESS TAPS IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COMPOUND WATER ACCESS IS ALSO BEING TARGETED FOR SPECIFIC SITES WITHIN GREYSTONE FOR PATIENTS BEING TREATED FOR SUSPECTED CHOLERA AND AT THE RED CROSS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TENTS AICF AGAIN STARTED IMMUNIZING CHILDREN FOR MEASLES IN THE COMPOUND ON MAY 9 WITH VACCINE, SYRINGES AND COLD CHAIN ITEMS TRANSPORTED BY HELICOPTER DUE TO SECURITY CONDITIONS AT THE BRIDGES FROM STORAGE AT SWEDERELIEF HOSPITAL TO THE USEMBASSY HELIPORT 176 CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE IN THE COMPOUND RECEIVED MEASLES IMMUNIZATION ON MAY 9 ADDITIONAL LATRINE AREAS ARE ALSO BEING DUG IN THE COMPOUND AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON SANITATION IS ON-GOING

3 ON MAY 8, NGO, UN AND USAID REPRESENTATIVES MET AT ECOMOG HEADQUARTERS TO COORDINATE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS SECURITY, HARASSMENT AND THREATS OF LOOTING AND HIJACKING CONTINUE AS THE PRIMARY CONCERN AND IMPEDIMENT TO ACHIEVING ANY SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS FIGHTING, A LACK OF UNIMPEDED ACCESS AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AT BRIDGES HAVE EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED AREAS OF MONROVIA FROM HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PERSONNEL, SUPPLIES AND FOOD THOUSANDS OF THE DISPLACED ARE CAUGHT IN THIS WEB OF VIOLENCE WITH LARGE NUMBERS CONGREGATED ON BUSHROD ISLAND ATTEMPTING TO FIND A SAFE HAVEN IN WAREHOUSES, SCHOOLS AND NEAR ECOMOG INSTALLATIONS THIS MEETING IDENTIFIED MANY POCKETS OF THESE POPULATIONS AT RISK INCLUDING ALSO ORPHANAGES, HOSPITALS NGO/UN AGENCIES AGREED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE TO FOLLOW-UP ON ASSESSING NEEDS AT SUCH LOCATIONS AS SECURITY AND ACCESS PERMITS UN/HACO REPORTED THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD COORDINATION MEETINGS ON TUESDAY AND SATURDAY AT ITS RIVERVIEW COMPLEX AND IS ESTABLISHING A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH AN EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL BEING DRAFTED

4 UN AND NGO REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH THE ECOMOG CHIEF OF STAFF ON MAY 8 TO ADDRESS AN ARRAY OF SECURITY

UNCLASSIFIED

3

CONCERNS AND THEIR IMPACT ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS  
IT WAS AGREED THAT ECOMOG WOULD AGAIN ESTABLISH A WEEKLY  
SECURITY MEETING AT ECOMOG HEADQUARTERS PORT SECURITY  
WAS A PRIMARY CONCERN AT THIS MEETING FOR WFP WHERE  
xx MT OF FOOD IS STORED AND WAS CONSIDERED VULNERABLE  
DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES IN THE PORT SENIOR ECOMOG  
OFFICIALS HAVE MET WITH THE PORT CAPTAIN AND OPERATIONS  
OFFICIALS ON THIS SITUATION SHIPPING CONTAINERS ARE  
BEING USED AS BARRIERS TO SEPARATE THE WHARF FROM OTHER  
AREAS OF THE PORT WHERE THOUSANDS CONGREGATE DAILY IT  
WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT PORT OPERATIONS WOULD AGAIN  
RESUME AT NIGHT WHICH SHOULD EXPEDITE THE OFF-LOADING OF  
VESSELS ECOMOG ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT  
CATHOLIC, SWEDERELIEF AND REDEMPTION HOSPITALS EFFECTIVE  
IMMEDIATELY SINCE PATIENTS AND STAFF IN HOSPITALS HAVE  
BEEN BEATEN, ROBBED AND THREATENED

4

5

6

7 MILAM##

UNCLASSIFIED

19

AUTH  
DRET  
CLN1  
CLN2  
CLN3  
CLN4  
CLN5

UNCLASSIFIED  
AID 05/13/96  
AMB WBMILAM  
AID TDOLAN/LELYNCH  
DCM JWFUHRER  
AID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
SECSTATE WASHDC, IMMEDIATE  
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE, PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC, PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME, PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS, PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE, PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK, PRIORITY

AIDAC

AID/W FOR BHR/OFDA, BHR/FFP, BHR/OTI AND AFR/WA  
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W AND PRM  
SECDEF ALSO FOR OSD/HRA  
NSC FOR S RICE AND M DESHAZER  
FREETOWN ALSO FOR EDRC J SNYDER  
GENEVA FOR USAID  
ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WCA  
LONDON FOR J YOUNG  
ROME FOR FODAG

E O 12356 N/A  
TAGS

SUBJECT LIBERIA DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT OF  
MAY 13, 1996

1 SUMMARY CONDITIONS AT USEMBASSY GREYSTONE COMPOUND  
IMPROVING WITH CLEAN WATER ACCESS, BUT HEALTH CONCERNS  
CONTINUE DEATHS IN THE COMPOUND OVER THE WEEKEND ARE  
ATTRIBUTED TO CHOLERA AND MEASLES COMPLICATED BY  
MALNUTRITION A THIRD USAID/OFDA CHARTERED HELICOPTER  
DELIVERED EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES END SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

2 CHLORINATED DRINKING WATER CONTINUES TO BE TRUCKED BY USEMBASSY AND EUROPEAN UNION VEHICLES TO THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND DAILY BUT THE QUANTITIES ARE LESS THAN ADEQUATE AND DEPENDENT UPON TRAVEL SECURITY FOR THE WATER TRUCKS AS WELL AS WATER AVAILABILITY FROM USEMBASSY WELLS STREET FIGHTING AROUND THE COMPOUND ON MAY 11 HALTED DELIVERIES IN THE AFTERNOON AND QUICKLY DRAINED THE REMAINING WATER RESERVE STORED IN THE TOWER FOR THE COMPOUND'S DISPLACED TWO USEMBASSY WATER TRUCKS WITH A COMBINED 7,000 GALLON CAPACITY HAVE BEEN FILLED DURING THE NIGHT FROM A WELL ON THE EMBASSY GROUNDS AS WATER LEVELS ALLOW THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS ALSO BEEN TRANSPORTING WATER FOR GREYSTONE OVER THE CONTESTED BRIDGE TO MAMBA POINT AS SECURITY PERMITS USING A 6,000 GALLON WATER TRUCK THE SINGLE SOURCE OF WATER ON THE GREYSTONE COMPOUND FROM A WELL PRODUCES RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES OF WATER AND IS NOT CONSIDERED SAFE FOR DRINKING THIS WELL WATER IS BEING USED BY PEOPLE IN THE COMPOUND FOR WATER NEEDS OTHER THAN CONSUMPTION PEOPLE IN GREYSTONE CAN ALSO BE REGULARLY SEEN CARRYING WATER BACK FROM CREEKS AND PRIVATE WELLS LOCATED SOME DISTANCES FROM THE COMPOUND

3 HEALTH CONCERNS CONTINUE IN THE COMPOUND WITH 8 DEATHS REPORTED FROM MAY 10-13 AND BEING ATTRIBUTED TO CHOLERA OR OTHER DIARRHEAL DISEASE, MEASLES AND MALARIA 32 PATIENTS WITH SEVERE DIARRHEA WERE ADMITTED ON SATURDAY TO THE CHOLERA UNIT ESTABLISHED BY AICF AND MSF AND 26 PATIENTS WERE BROUGHT IN ON SUNDAY A PHYSICIAN FROM MSF/INTERNATIONAL HAS OBTAINED SPECIMENS TO BE SENT TO THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE FOR LABORATORY CONFIRMATION AND DRUG SENSITIVITY STOCKS OF ORAL REHYDRATION SALTS (ORS), LACTATED RINGERS FOR INTRAVENOUS INFUSION, ANTIBIOTICS AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR PATIENTS BEING TREATED IN THE COMPOUND ARE PRESENTLY ADEQUATE

4 THE MALNOURISHED STATUS OF MANY OF THE PATIENTS PARTICULARLY CHILDREN HAS BEEN A MAJOR COMPLICATING FACTOR IN THOSE SUFFERING FROM MEASLES AND DIARRHEAL DISEASE USAID/DART TRANSPORTED CORN-SOY-BLEND, COOKING WARE AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO THE CHOLERA UNIT TO START A FEEDING PROGRAM FOR THESE PATIENTS ADDITIONAL STEPS AT IMPROVING SANITATION ARE ALSO BEING TAKEN INCLUDING BUILDING ADDITIONAL LATRINES, CLEANING OPEN AREAS USED FOR DEFECATION, FLY AND INSECT SPRAYING AND COLLECTING AND REMOVING LARGE AMOUNTS OF GARBAGE AND REFUSE THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

3

HAS ACCUMULATED IN THE COMPOUND A MEASLES IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IS NOW IN ITS FOURTH DAY REACHING ALMOST 200 CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE DAILY

5 ON MAY 10, A THIRD USAID/OFDA CHARTERED HELICOPTER ARRIVED IN MONROVIA AT THE EMBASSY FROM FREETOWN CARRYING 3,000 POUNDS OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES, SHELTER MATERIALS AND OTHER SUPPLIES THESE MEDICINES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MSF TO HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE THROUGHOUT MONROVIA

6 THE DART LEADER AND THE USAID/LIBERIA REPRESENTATIVE VISITED THE FREEPORT OF MONROVIA THIS MORNING (MONDAY, MAY 13) ECOMOG AND THE PORT AUTHORITIES HAD KEPT THEIR PROMISE AND BARRICADED THE DOCK LOADING AREAS AND KEY WAREHOUSES, USING CONTAINERS AND HEAVY VEHICULAR EQUIPMENT THEY HAD ALSO SEALED OFF TWO OF THE PORTS' THREE ENTRANCES IN THE SAME MANNER, AND THEY APPEARED TO BE MAKING A REASONABLY EFFECTIVE EFFORT TO LIMIT ACCESS THROUGH THE THIRD GATE A SHIP, THE MV REMVI, DESTINED FOR GUINEA, WAS LOADING BOTH PASSENGERS AND CARGO (PROBABLY LOOTED GOODS) IN AS ORDERLY A FASHION AS COULD BE EXPECTED IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WERE CROWDS INSIDE THE PORT, MOST OF WHOM SEEMED TO HAVE BADGES, BUT THE NUMBERS DID SEEM SMALLER THAN WE HAD HEARD ABOUT EARLIER (OUR ROUGH ESTIMATE WAS THAT THERE WERE LESS THAN A THOUSAND INTERLOPERS INSIDE THE PORT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SEVERAL VEHICLES THAT APPEARED TO BE BATTLEWAGONS FILLED WITH YOUNG MEN ) AFTER WE LEFT, HOWEVER, THE ACCESS CONTROLS REPORTEDLY BROKE DOWN AND CROWDS BEGAN TO INCREASE, TO THE POINT WHERE WFP STOPPED ITS PORT OPERATIONS AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON

7 REPRESENTATIVES FROM CERTAIN UN AGENCIES AND NGO'S, INCLUDING UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNOMIL, AND SCF-UK, BASED IN AND AROUND THE RIVERVIEW COMPOUND MADE AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO MAMBA POINT ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE TIME A MEETING OF EU, AICF, MSF-I, ICRC, AND USAID/LIBERIA AND USAID/DART WAS STARTING AT THE EU OFFICE SO, A BRIEF IMPROMPTU COORDINATION MEETING TOOK PLACE THE MEETING REVIEWED IN DETAIL THE ONGOING EXISTING OPERATIONS AND PLANS FOR EMERGENCY DRINKING WATER SUPPLY FOR ACCESSIBLE PARTS OF MONROVIA THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DO MORE THAN TOUCH ON FOOD AID, SANITATION AND OTHER RELIEF MATTERS, SINCE THE UN AND NGO VISITORS HAD TO LEAVE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

22

UNCLASSIFIED

4

CONTINUE THEIR ASSESSMENT VISITS TO THEIR FORMER MAMBA  
POINT OFFICES AND OTHER FACILITIES THERE WAS  
AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE ENTIRE GROUP SHOULD MEET ON  
A REGULAR BASIS MILAM##

UNCLASSIFIED

27

**MEMORANDUM**

9 May 1996

To Col Forbush, MARFOR Det Commander  
From Lynn Thomas, DART  
Subject Civilian Helicopter ETA - US EMBASSY/Monrovia

1 USAID/OFDA has contracted with SORUSS Helicopter from Freetown S L a commercial MI-17 Hippo helicopter ( Tail number EW-70967 or RA-27141, color Blue over White, radio freq 118.1 MHz ) to transport priority humanitarian relief supplies from Freetown to the US EMBASSY compound ETA for this helicopter is at 1300 on Friday 10 May It is anticipated that time on the embassy heliport for off-loading to be approximately 15 minutes Arrangements are in place to use FSN personnel and forklift for this off-loading and transport

2 Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated I will provide an update on ETA and other information by mid-day tomorrow If I may provide additional information, please contact me, Tom Dolan or Lowell Lynch at extension 260

**MEMORANDUM**

2 May 1996

To Col Forbush, MARFOR Det Commander  
From Lynn Thomas, DART  
Subject Civilian Helicopter ETA - US EMBASSY/Monrovia

1 USAID/OFDA has contracted a commercial helicopter ( Tail EW-70967 or RA-27141, color Blue over White, radio freq 118.1 MHz ) to transport priority humanitarian relief supplies from Freetown to the US EMBASSY compound. ETA for this helicopter is anticipated at 1230 on Friday 3 May. It is anticipated that time on the embassy heliport for off-loading to be approximately 10 minutes. Arrangements are in place to use FSN personnel and forklift for this off-loading and transport, but the standby of 6 marines to assist (IF required) would be most appreciated.

2 Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. I will provide an update on ETA and other information by mid-day tomorrow. If I may provide additional information, please contact me, Tom Dolan or Lowell Lynch at extension 260.

25

**MEMORANDUM**

3 May 1996

To Col Forbush, MARFOR Det Commander  
From Lynn Thomas, DART  
Subject Civilian Helicopter ETA - US EMBASSY/Monrovia

1 USAID/OFDA has contracted a commercial helicopter ( Tail EW-70967 or RA-27141, color Blue over White, radio freq 118.1 MHz ) to transport priority humanitarian relief supplies from Freetown to the US EMBASSY compound. ETA for this helicopter is at 1200 on Saturday 4 May. It is anticipated that time on the embassy heliport for off-loading to be approximately 15 minutes. Arrangements are in place to use FSN personnel and forklift for this off-loading and transport, but the standby of 6 marines to assist (IF required) would be most appreciated.

2 Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. I will provide an update on ETA and other information by mid-day tomorrow. If I may provide additional information, please contact me, Tom Dolan or Lowell Lynch at extension 260.

BULLET LIST FROM  
DAILY LOG

- 12 April Travel to DC, briefing with OFDA, equipment checkout
- 13 April Travel Dulles to Heathrow \*United flt 920 y left 1 hr 45 min late
- 14 April Arrived Heathrow 7 58 am missed flt 906 y to Brussels by some 45 min  
Left Heathrow 1600 flt 398 British Air to Brussels
- 15 April Checked in with OFDA discussed possible re roughing thru Dakar  
Checked on equipment at Sabena Air Baggage/ checked all flight opportunities to  
Freetown\ OFDA setup Air France to Paris to Abiojan on the 16th to meet Kate  
in Paris  
Checked on Equipment at Sabena Air Baggage
- 16 April Air France to Paris to Abiojan, Kate didn't show in Paris  
Arrived Abiojan 1800, Called OFDA/ Kate not coming/ replaced by Eric Noji,  
CDC, Embassy Arranged for charter aircraft to Freetown 0530 17 April  
Equipment arrived okay
- 17 April Flew to Freetown by charter aircraft/ delayed 1 hr, due too heavy rain  
Met Jesse Snyder and drove to Embassy/ 1400 met with NGO'S MSF,  
ICRC, CRS, AICF AND CARE Gathered names and locations of local  
NGO's talked about plans for reentry into Liberia  
Met Eric at Heli-pad at Mamba point
- 18 April Flew Milair to US Embassy Monrovia, Met with Kathleen List, John Freese  
Met with Ambassador Milam, setup work area in AID building, checked out  
Embassy radio, Set up sat-com, checked in with OFDA
- 19 April Made assessment on Greystone, met with Liberian RC, conducted needs'  
assessment for water and sanitation and health Checked in with OFDA/ Faxed  
resource request
- 20 April Made several trips to Greystone, organizing efforts on latrines and  
education on sanitation issues set up schedule for well chlorination, tried to make  
contact with NGO's Checked in with OFDA
- 21 April Went to Bushrod pumping station to fill 3000 gal tanker for US Embassy,  
accompany US Embassy on food delivery (Bigger Wheat) to a Gen  
Yanks?? Said it was for general distribution in the community?
- 22 April Lowell Lynch returned, setup meeting with NGO's Checked in with OFDA  
Met with NGO's at US Embassy attending were EEC, W H O , LI-CHI-CO,  
ICRC, YMCA, USAID, US EMBASSY AND OFDA/ DART  
Checked progress on latrines in Greystone/well chlorination Requested 50  
shovels from Jesse, will issue to sanitation crew and for burying the dead  
Checked in with OFDA  
Lowell Lynch/ DART met with DHA at the Embassy, discussed general  
situation, Greystone and other displaced persons camps exchanged maps,  
commitment to obtain DHA radio, met with MSF later in the day discussed MSF  
taking the lead in Greystone on Health, water and sanitation Eric Thomas MSF  
Agreed to do so Checked in with OFDA
- 23 April Attend a meeting at Riverview with UN agencies, DHA, WHO, MSF, ICRC,

- 23 April WFP and World Vision Obtained UN radio Discussed general plan for Greystone with MSF Visited the Port/WFP Attend a meeting at JFK Medical Center, met reps from AICF Checked out the airport The Runway is in good shape and is approx 7000' of usable runway but the tower was destroyed during fighting there are ECOMOG troops guarding the facility Checked in with OFDA
- 24 April Accompanied DHA to the PO River area, did an assessment on several displaced person camps north of Monrovia, including VOA, Parker corner, Kamara town, Zuannah town, Kapikor, Karmo town, Sagbeh and Kpomakpok camp A need for plastic sheeting is noted Checked in with OFDA placed resource request
- 25 April Eric leaves for Freetown Obtained radio from MSF, visited Greystone checked on latrines some are complete and are being used, looking for more materials to complete the last Checked in with OFDA
- 26 April Confined to Embassy due Fighting, worked on communications, maps Tried too obtained the okay to land a contract helicopter at the US Embassy, was denied the request no-good reason given Checked in with OFDA
- 27 April Confined to Embassy due to fighting in the AM Worked in Greystone in the afternoon until fighting broke out Checked in with OFDA
- 28 April Attended meeting at Riverview with DHA, moved from the ambassadors residence to Lowell apartment Tom Dolan arrived briefed Tom and met with EC, MSF, AICF Checked in with OFDA
- 29 April Visited Greystone, checked out sites for water bladders, checked on well chorine with MSF Tom takes lead on check in with OFDA
- 30 April Checked on landing contract Helicopter at the Embassy, was told by the RSO that the Military had said no that it was too risky? I checked with Col Dick, explained the DART dilemma and he said we could try it.
- 01 May Contacted Jesse Snyder to go ahead and start the contracting of SARUSS Helicopter of Freetown to air lift in OFDA/DART Humanitarian supplies Contacted NGO's that DART could fly in NGO personnel and supplies On the contract helicopter as space was available
- 02 May Sent memo to Col Forbush notifying him of the contract helicopter landing at the Embassy Confined to Embassy due to heavy fighting Worked on Water and Sanitation plans for Greystone
- 03 May Received supplies on contract helicopter, Helicopter landed without incident and was off loaded in 12 min Supplies were stored in fenced compound (JTRichards) out side Embassy Compound Setup two 10,000 let bladders near the well at the lower end of Greystone Started hauling water from the Embassy to the bladders This supplies two tap stands with six servers each
- 04 May Fighting forced my return to the Embassy, was able to deliver 10,000 us gals to Greystone All six latrines are complete, planing four more if materials can be found, may have to buy in Freetown and ship them down Landed 2nd contract Helicopter at the Embassy also brought in NGO's for MSF and RCF
- 05 May Worked on plans to reroute water line in Greystone to use the reservoir, this will give us 70,000 liter's capacities Requested hose clamps 1" plastic pipe from Jesse

- 06 May The Greystone population is backup to 20,000 plus The Embassy is still hauling an average of 10,000 us gallons per day to Greystone I don't think this will last long before the Embassy starts to feel the impact White Plains is an option or Bushrod pumping station The fighting will be a factor
- 07 May Started reroute pipes to the reservoir MSF is taking the lead with AICF, this will eliminate the need to go down Benson street this should be securer as the off loading will be at the upper gate near the Embassy Provided tents, blankets, plastic sheeting to MSF and the Liberian Red Cross for aid station
- 08 May AICF starts Measles immunization today, DART is providing tents and cold storage for vaccines Trying to find areas to dig more latrines, rocks big rocks are causing digging holes large enough for latrines Thinking about using half of 55 gallon drums and burning the waste
- 09 May The skeleton crew is running out of places to bury the dead, they also need burial cloth The fighters are not letting the burial crew get to the beach to temporary
- 10 May The modification to the water line is complete, the tankers can off load at the upper gate that will make it much safer There are now eight tape stands with six servers each Water schedule 0930 to 1130 and 1430 to 1830 if the water hold up Still getting 7,000 gallons a day from the Embassy EC has a 6,000 gal truck that will start hauling when they can safely cross the river Third contract helicopter landed at the US Embassy with WHO kits and MSF personnel
- 11 May EU is trucking water to Greystone from White plains, Measles immunization continues Fighting has stopped the water hauling The skeleton crew is out of places to bury the dead, they have been burying outside the stone wall of Greystone but say there is no more room
- 12 May Issued plastic sheeting and tents to MSF and Liberian Red Cross Dr Moses and the skeleton crew will handle distribution of plastic sheeting in Greystone Issued 5 gallon water containers to MSF Attend meeting at the EU dealing mainly with water issues
- 13 May Obtained a pallet of lime from the military to use in the latrines, issued to MSF The Embassy is starting to feel the impact of the 10,000 gals per day They will assign the UN truck and driver to go with the EU truck to White Plains for water Attend a meeting at the EU on water issues and mid range plans to chlorinate wells outside of Greystone White Plains will be shutting down today for repairs and then reducing its pumping hours because of equipment problems
- 14 May - Packed up radios and other equipment to take to Freetown to be pouched back by the Embassy Brought issue up to date, turned in Embassy radio and gave Tom the MSF radio Debriefed with Ambassador Milam he said that he was pleased with the works that DART had been doing Flew a military helicopter to Freetown Met with LCDR John Dillender he is in charge of the military helicopters from Freetown to Monrovia He now has a better understanding of what the DART mission is and the considerations that relief supplies should have in getting on the military flights
- 15 May Talked with Jesse Snyder and closed out some issues with him Met with MSF and ICRC MSF said that they had lost there last vehicle yesterday out side BTC and the UN had lost one also I introduced them to LCDR Dillender, this may help

- 15 May getting NGO commodities on military flights Turned over OFDA equipment to Embassy Expediter to be taken to the Embassy to be pouched back to OFDA  
Confirmed flight back
- 16 May Met with MSF closed out some issues Closed out with LCDR Dillender Closed out with Jesse Snyder Started travel to Atlanta
- 17 May Travel to Atlanta Arrived home 2130

## COMMODITY ISSUE

as of May 14, 1996

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Number ordered</u>	<u>Number received</u>	<u>Issued To</u>
1 Plastic sheeting	220 rolls	20	10 LRC 7 MSF
2 Shovels	50	50	26 Ministry's of health/body disp 15 Greystone wat/san 9 trash crew
3 5 gal Water containers	40 box	40 box	10 LRC 10 MSF
4 Tents	20 ea	20	10 MSF 6 Liberian Red Cross 1 Skeleton Crew
5 Blankets	20 bales	20 Bales	10 LRC 10 MSF
6 Water Bladder kits	6 ea	6	6 MSF
Water Pumps	3 ea	3	3 MSF
Misc Hose/fittings			
7 Picks	20 ea	20	20 MSF
8 WHO Med Kits			MSF
9 Chlorine	8 Pales	8 Pales	4 White Plans 4 EU
10 Cots	30 ea	30 ea	30 MSF

# Keep your AREA CLEAN

1 → SWEEP YOUR AREA EVERY DAY

2 → PUT YOUR DIRT IN PLASTIC BAG

3 → EMPTY YOUR DIRT WHERE YOUR AREA PEOPLE AGREE?

4 → DON'T LET THE CHILDREN DUPEU WHERE YOU COOK AND SLEEP.

5 → ...AND PEPER WHERE YOU COOK AND SLEEP

6 → PLEASE RESPECT THE INTER-CON SECURITY OFFICERS

7 → REMEMBER THE GATE OPENS AT 6:00am

8 → ... AND CLOSES AT 7:00 (PM)

9 → TRY TO LIVE TOGETHER PEACEFULLY

2008 World Rights Document

# HEY!!! DON'T



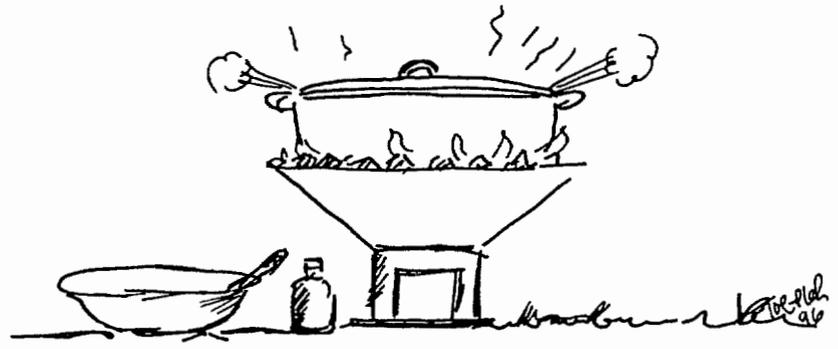
PEPEE



KEEP DIRT



PUPUU

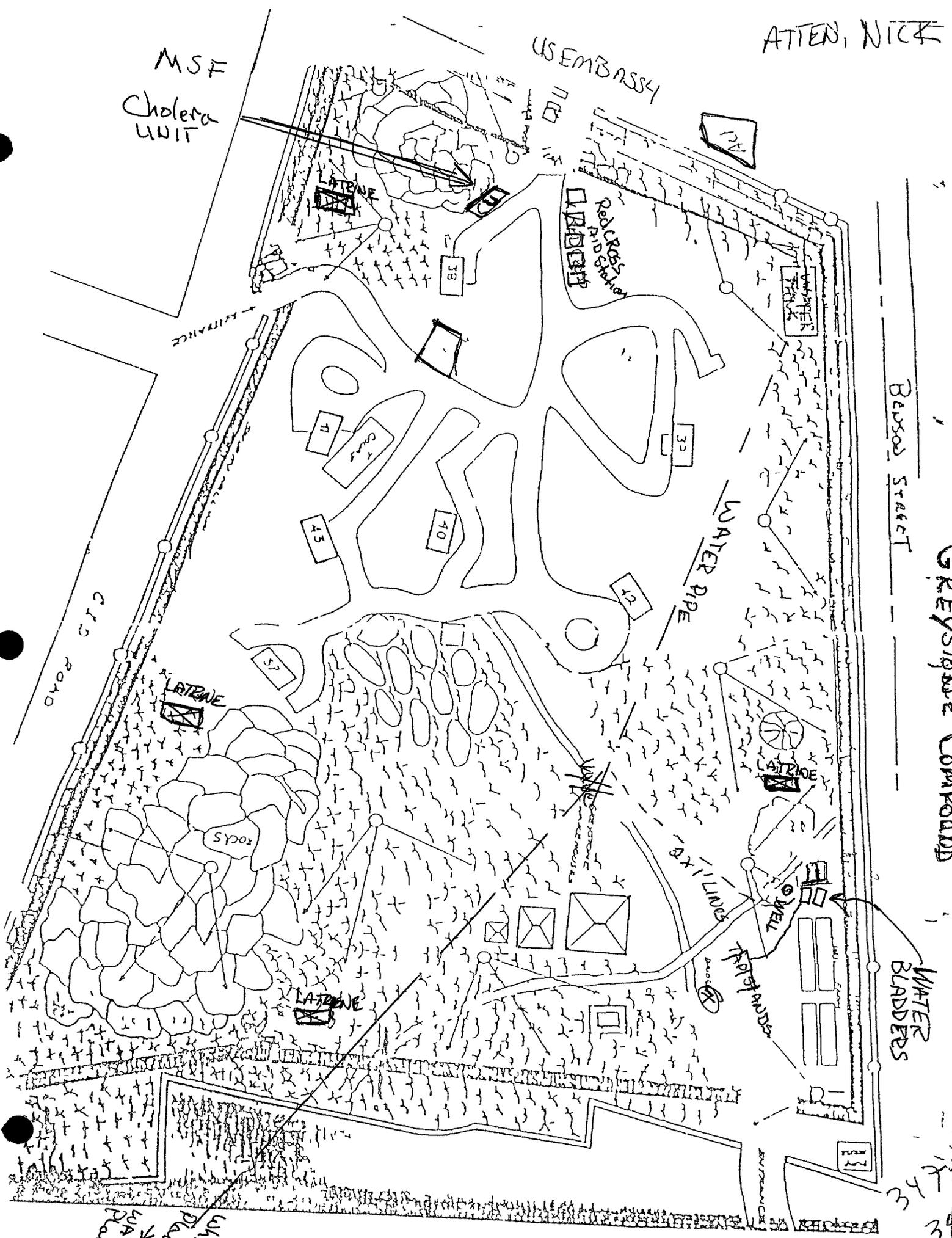


## WHERE YOU COOK AND SLEEP

ATTEN, NICK

USEMBASSY

MSF  
Cholera  
UNIT



BASSO STREET

KEYSIGNATURE COMPOUND

WATER  
BLADDERS

WHITE  
PLANE  
WATER  
PLANT

34  
35

## ***Lessons Learned***

### **a Initial call up**

This went as well as can be expected, Pete Bradford provided as much needed information as was necessary at this point. Travel information and arrangements to Washington were complete and time frames were adequate for good preparation.

### **b OFDA briefing**

The basic information on the host country was thorough. Maps were good and the number was adequate. Having people that have worked in the host country provide information is always helpful.

The equipment check-out and familiarization was hasty. All the components were not available at one time and return trips to Roslyn were necessary. This could have been a problem for someone that did not have some basic knowledge of the electronics to be used.

### **c Equipment pre-check**

It is essential to have all electronic equipment pre-checked using all power sources. Some problems were experienced upon arrival in-country with equipment that did not work. Some equipment was found faulty before leaving Washington.

### **d. Radios**

Radios that are compatible with the NGO community would be very useful. The king system has its place but it can not be programmed to the NGO's frequencies. The computer software for programming these frequencies would also need to be provided.

### **e Host country briefing**

Freetown brief by Jesse Snyder (Sierra Leone OFDA-EDRC) and NGO (recently departed from Monrovia) was productive and setup the OFDA/ DART as the focal and coordinating point for returning NGOs to Monrovia. The DART personnel were informed of NGO equipment, personnel, return concept and intentions. This gave credibility to The DART in working with the US Ambassador and UN organizations in Monrovia as well as a better understanding of the large picture on the situation and possible approaches for assistance.

Brief by US Ambassador Milam in Monrovia - Productive brief but principle what DART could provide for USG (Ambassador) in Monrovia. Covered security situations and USG policies for traveling in the city. Requested DART assistance with Greystone problem.

**f. Excess cargo with DART team members**

Large boxes without secure locking systems were cumbersome and difficult in handling by airline employees and expensive for USG. Airlines are reluctant to take boxes over 70 pounds (ours were 168 lb and 112 lbs). We had major problems convincing the Airlines to take the boxes and even bigger problems working out a system to cover the additional expenses. Suggest 1) boxes not exceed 70 pounds, 2) all boxes have a locking system to prevent vandalism and 3) have a separate paying system (prepay, GBL, etc.)