

the trial for six months he was not in a position to provide any factual information on compliance with requirements emanating from document S/23308, as those requests related to actions which could only be undertaken during and following the conclusion of the trial. He stated that it appeared that under the circumstances the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya might only be expected to provide assurances of its commitment to comply with those requirements, particularly as regards access to witnesses, relevant documents and other material evidence. However, he pointed out that the Libyan authorities had indeed provided assurances that they would cooperate with the Scottish court. As for the requirement in document S/23309 that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya commit itself definitely to cease all forms of terrorist action and all assistance to terrorist groups, he noted that they had stated so on numerous occasions. Finally, he reported that he had hosted a tripartite meeting between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States and the United Kingdom in order to assist the participants in clarifying the positions of their Governments regarding the requirements of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions for the lifting of measures.

At its 4022nd meeting, held on 9 July 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the report of the Secretary-General of 30 June 1999 in its agenda. Following the adoption of the agenda the President (Malaysia) drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 6 July 1999 from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

reiterating that the Security Council was obliged, according to its decision, to lift the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya upon the receipt of the Secretary-General's report.⁵⁰

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁵¹

The Security Council recalls its resolutions 731 (1992) of 21 January 1992, 748 (1992) of 31 March 1992, 883 (1993) of 11 November 1993 and 1192 (1998) of 27 August 1998 and the statement by its President of 8 April 1999.

The Council welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 30 June 1999 submitted in fulfilment of the request contained in paragraph 16 of resolution 883 (1993).

The Council welcomes the positive developments identified in the report and the fact that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has made significant progress in compliance with the relevant resolutions. It welcomes also the commitment given by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to implement further the relevant resolutions by continuing cooperation in order to meet all the requirements contained therein. It encourages all parties concerned to maintain their spirit of cooperation. The Council recalls that the measures set forth in resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) have been suspended, and reaffirms its intention to lift those measures as soon as possible, in conformity with the relevant resolutions.

The Council expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts in his role as set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 731 (1992) and paragraph 6 of resolution 1192 (1998), and requests him to follow developments regarding this matter closely and to report to the Council accordingly.

The Council remains actively seized of the matter.

⁵⁰ S/1999/752.

⁵¹ S/PRST/1999/22.

8. The situation in Sierra Leone

Decision of 15 February 1996 (3632nd meeting): statement by the President

At the 3632nd meeting, held on 15 February 1996, the Security Council included in its agenda without objection the item entitled "the situation in Sierra Leone".¹ The President (United States), with the consent of the Council, then invited the representative

¹ S/PV.3632, p. 2.

of Sierra Leone, at his request to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²

The Security Council welcomes the results of the meeting of the National Consultative Conference on 12 February 1996 that overwhelmingly supported the decision to maintain

² S/PRST/1996/7.

26 February 1996 as the date of the elections. The Council also welcomes the renewed promise of the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council, to abide by the will of the people expressed through the Conference to hold the elections as scheduled. The Council notes that the Chairman of the Interim National Electoral Commission has confirmed that all the necessary technical arrangements are in place for elections to proceed.

The Council reiterates its belief that the holding of free and fair elections as scheduled is of critical importance to Sierra Leone's transition to democratic constitutional rule. Any delay in the elections or interruption in this process is likely to erode international donor support for Sierra Leone. It is also likely to greatly increase the potential for further instability and violence, with devastating consequences for the people of Sierra Leone.

The Council cautions all groups and individuals in Sierra Leone not to attempt to disrupt through violence or intimidation the electoral process which the great majority of the people of Sierra Leone support. The Council calls upon the Government to fulfil its undertaking to ensure a safe and free environment for the elections.

The Council urges all parties to end the violence in Sierra Leone. The Council welcomes the initial contacts between the Government and the Revolutionary United Front and calls upon the Revolutionary United Front to renew its ceasefire and to enter into a full dialogue for peace without any conditions.

The Council expresses its continued concern about the humanitarian situation and suffering of the people resulting from the conflict in Sierra Leone. The Council calls upon Member States to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to address this problem.

The Council commends the efforts of the Secretary-General to assist the conduct of the elections, and in particular the establishment of the Joint International Observer Group. It also commends the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to support the democratic transition and to facilitate peace negotiations between the Government and the Revolutionary United Front. The Council appreciates the important role of the Organization of African Unity and others, including States neighbouring Sierra Leone, in attempting to bring peace to that country.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation in Sierra Leone and to keep the Council informed of all significant developments.

**Decision of 19 March 1996 (3643rd meeting):
statement by the President**

At its 3643rd meeting held on 19 March 1996, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Botswana) made the

following the following statement on behalf of the Council:³

The Security Council welcomes the parliamentary and presidential elections held in Sierra Leone on 26 and 27 February 1996 and the second round of Presidential elections held on 15 March. It congratulates the people of Sierra Leone on the courage and determination they have shown in proceeding with the elections despite difficulties and disruptions, and pays tribute to all those involved in the success of the elections, in particular the Interim National Electoral Commission and its Chairman. The Council stresses the importance it attaches to a peaceful transition to civilian rule. It welcomes the commitment by the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council to hand over authority by 31 March 1996 and calls upon all concerned to cooperate fully with the newly elected President and Parliament.

The Council notes that the Joint International Observer Group, which monitored the first round of elections, was impressed by the "overwhelming desire on the part of the people of Sierra Leone to exercise their democratic right in casting a ballot for the parties and candidates of their choice". They have now done so, and it is incumbent on all concerned to help them to consolidate the gains that have been made. The Council is of the view that the circumstances created by the successful conclusion of the elections in Sierra Leone require redoubled efforts to end the fighting in that country. It commends the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and others, in particular the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, to that end. It reiterates its call to all parties to end the violence. It calls upon the Revolutionary United Front to accept the outcome of the elections, maintain the ceasefire and enter into a full dialogue for peace, without any conditions.

The Council calls upon the international community to provide generous assistance to help in resolving the humanitarian problems caused by the conflict in Sierra Leone, and to assist the Government and people of that country in the task of reconstruction that now faces them.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation in Sierra Leone and to keep the Council informed of significant developments.

**Decision of 4 December 1996 (3720th meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 3720th meeting of the Security Council, held on 4 December 1996 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Italy), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

³ S/PRST/1996/12.

At the same meeting the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁴

The Security Council warmly welcomes the Peace Agreement signed by the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front in Abidjan on 30 November 1996. The Agreement brings to an end a bitter conflict which has caused appalling suffering to the people of Sierra Leone. The Council pays tribute to the courage and determination of all those who have worked tirelessly towards this end. The Council hopes that the Agreement will provide encouragement to those working for peace in other parts of Africa.

The Council commends in particular the role played by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire whose commitment and determination in the chairmanship of the negotiations between the parties have been crucial to this successful outcome. The Council also pays tribute to the support provided to the negotiations by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in close coordination with the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth, the Economic Community of West African States and other organizations and neighbouring countries.

The Council continues to follow developments in Sierra Leone with close interest. The Peace Agreement is an essential first step towards national reconciliation and reconstruction. The Council will continue to support the development of peace and democracy in Sierra Leone. It notes in particular the need for a successful process of demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and stands ready to assist in this process. It stresses the importance of a coordinated international effort to alleviate the humanitarian situation in the country.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation in Sierra Leone and to keep the Council informed of further significant developments.

**Decision of 27 May 1997 (3781st meeting):
statement by the President**

By a letter dated 10 December 1996 addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁵ the Secretary-General informed the Council of the High Level Consultations on Post-Conflict Peace-Building in West Africa: Political and Development Initiatives held in New York on 21 October 1996.

By a letter dated 11 December 1996 addressed to the Secretary-General,⁶ the representative of Sierra Leone transmitted a document entitled "Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of

Sierra Leone", signed at Abidjan on 30 November 1996.

By a letter dated 13 December 1996 addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁷ the Secretary-General transmitted two letters: one from the President of Sierra Leone and the other from the leader of the Revolutionary United Front, dated 30 November and 9 December 1996, respectively, and indicated his intention, subject to the concurrence of the Council, to send an assessment mission to Sierra Leone to develop recommendations on ways in which the United Nations could assist in monitoring the peace in that country.

In his report dated 26 January 1997, submitted pursuant to the letter of the President of the Council dated 17 December 1996,⁸ the Secretary-General reflected the findings of the assessment team which visited Sierra Leone from 22 December 1996 to 6 January 1997, and the team's recommendations regarding the assistance the United Nations could extend to the parties in implementing the Abidjan Accord.⁹

At the 3781st meeting of the Security Council, held on 27 May 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Republic of Korea), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:¹⁰

The Security Council is deeply concerned about the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone, especially when the United Nations is assisting the process of reconciliation in that country. It strongly deplores this attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government and calls for an immediate restoration of constitutional order. The Council takes note of the communiqué of 26 May 1997 of the Central Organ Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity, and underlines the imperative need to implement the Abidjan Agreement which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

⁷ S/1996/1049.

⁸ S/1996/1050.

⁹ S/1997/80 and Add.1.

¹⁰ S/PRST/1997/29.

⁴ S/PRST/1996/46.

⁵ S/1996/1043.

⁶ S/1996/1034.

The Security Council strongly condemns the violence which has been inflicted on both local and expatriate communities, in particular United Nations and other international personnel serving in the country. It recalls the obligation of all concerned to ensure the protection of United Nations and other international personnel in the country, and calls for an end to the looting of premises and equipment belonging to the United Nations and international aid agencies.

**Decision of 11 July 1997 (3798th meeting):
statement by the President**

By a letter dated 9 July 1997 addressed to the President of the Security Council,¹¹ the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) requested an open meeting of the Security Council to be held as soon as possible to consider the item “the situation in Sierra Leone”.

At the 3797th meeting of the Security Council held on 11 July 1997, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, and at the request contained in the letter dated 9 July 1997 from the representative of Nigeria, the President (Sweden), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. At the same meeting, the Council also extended, without objection, an invitation under rule 39 of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure to the Permanent Observer of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the United Nations.

At the same meeting, the representative of Nigeria stated that the crisis in Sierra Leone brought about by the seizure of power on 25 May 1997 by a section of the Sierra Leonean military, portended “grave consequences” for peace and stability in Sierra Leone and for the political process and constitutionality in the governance of that country. The countries of the subregion were horrified by the “sheer venom” of the operation, the mindless waste of human life, the disruption of civil society and the sustained destruction of infrastructure and property. He underlined that the presence of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria, as well as the representatives of the secretariats of ECOWAS and the Organization of

African Unity (OAU), underscored the extent of subregional concern over developments in Sierra Leone and the need for the international community to come to grips with the situation in that country and coordinate its efforts with those of the countries of the subregion to bring the crisis to a peaceful resolution. He warned that the developments in Sierra Leone gave cause for immediate concern. Sierra Leone, which shared vast borders with Liberia and Guinea, for no less than seven years had engaged the attention of the subregion as a country torn apart by inter-factional conflict. He maintained that with the sustained and collective efforts of the member States of ECOWAS, life had begun to return to normalcy in Liberia as the final phase of the peace process was being implemented, namely, the conduct of elections. It was important therefore to carefully manage the situation in Sierra Leone so that the progress so far achieved in Liberia would not be reversed. He further underlined that Guinea was also subject to the threat of destabilization from a number of sources. As a country bordering Liberia, it had received a considerable number of refugees from that country. With the situation in Guinea itself deteriorating, Guinea had also been burdened by a new wave of Sierra Leonean refugees. Those circumstances had overstretched the economy of Guinea and posed great difficulties to the political and social stability of the nation. The effects of refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia went even beyond the confines of neighbouring countries. They were being felt all over the subregion, in particular in such countries as Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria, as well as in several others where sizeable numbers of refugees existed. In summarizing the actions and decisions undertaken by ECOWAS at its Ministerial meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held in Conakry, Guinea, on 26 June 1997, the representative of Nigeria highlighted the key elements of the communiqué issued at that meeting.¹² The first element included the objectives of calling for the reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah; the return of peace and security to Sierra Leone and the resolution of the issues of refugees and displaced persons. The second element consisted of the means of achieving these objectives. Accordingly, they pledged to work towards the reinstatement of the legitimate Government of

¹¹ S/1997/531.

¹² S/1997/499.

Sierra Leone by a combination of three measures: dialogue; the imposition of sanctions and embargo; and the use of force. In that regard, the representative of Nigeria underlined the concerns expressed by delegations at the Ministerial meeting in Conakry with respect to the use of force as a means of resolving the crisis in Sierra Leone. He stated that it was recognized that the other two options, including negotiations and sanctions cum blockade, could not be achieved without the use of some military force and that all three measures required consultations at the highest level among ECOWAS countries. For the third element, which consisted of the mechanism for implementing the decisions, the Ministers had established a committee to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting in Conakry. On 5 July 1997, the ministerial committee of four, including representatives of OAU and ECOWAS, presented a report to the Chairman of ECOWAS, who endorsed the recommendations and mandated the Committee with the steps outlined in the ECOWAS plan. In conclusion, the representative of Nigeria underlined that the people of Sierra Leone, the member States of ECOWAS and the entire continent of Africa looked with great expectation to the outcome of the Security Council meeting, which would be a clear and unequivocal message to the regime in Sierra Leone that it had to comply with the demands of the international community and return power to the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.¹³

At the same meeting, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the representative of Zimbabwe stated that OAU fully and unreservedly supported the initiative of the four ECOWAS member States and stood behind President Kabbah and the elected Government of Sierra Leone; it condemned the coup d'état and called upon the Security Council to support the efforts of ECOWAS and OAU in seeking the non-recognition and demise of the military regime in Sierra Leone and in working for the restoration of the democratically elected government in that country.¹⁴

On 11 July 1997, at the 3798th meeting of the Security Council, held in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the

¹³ S/PV.3797, pp. 2-5.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

President (Sweden), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:¹⁵

The Security Council recalls the statement by its President of 27 May 1997 following the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It remains deeply concerned about the continuing crisis in Sierra Leone and its negative humanitarian consequences on the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and, in particular, the atrocities committed against the citizens of Sierra Leone, foreign nationals and personnel of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States. It reiterates its view that the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is unacceptable and calls again for the immediate and unconditional restoration of constitutional order in the country.

The Council is concerned about the grave crisis in Sierra Leone which endangers the peace, security and stability of the whole region and, in particular, about its possible negative impact on the ongoing peace process in neighbouring Liberia.

The Council strongly supports the decision adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-sixth ordinary session, held at Harare from 28 to 31 May 1997, in which the Council of Ministers appealed to the leaders of the Economic Community of West African States and the international community to help the people of Sierra Leone to restore the constitutional order in that country and in which it underlined the imperative need to implement the Abidjan Agreement, which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

The Council welcomes the participation of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States members of the Committee of Four in its 3797th meeting of 11 July 1997.

The Council welcomes the mediation efforts initiated by the Economic Community of West African States and expresses its full support for the objectives of those efforts as set out in the final communiqué issued at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States held in Conakry on 26 June 1997.

The Council calls upon those who have seized power to cooperate fully with those efforts so that the constitutional order in Sierra Leone will be restored immediately.

The Council will continue to follow closely the progress of efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of the crisis and

¹⁵ S/PRST/1997/36.

stands ready to consider appropriate measures if constitutional order in Sierra Leone is not restored without delay.

The Council will remain actively seized of this matter.

**Decision of 6 August 1997 (3809th meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 3809th meeting of the Security Council, held on 6 August 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (United Kingdom), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:¹⁶

The Security Council recalls the statements of its President of 27 May and 11 July 1997 following the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It condemns the overthrow of the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and calls upon the military junta to take immediate steps to bring about the unconditional restoration of that Government. The Council remains deeply concerned about the situation in Sierra Leone, which endangers peace, security and stability in the whole region.

The Council underlines the need to implement the Abidjan Agreement, which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

The Council expresses its appreciation to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States members of the Committee of Four for their efforts to negotiate with representatives of the military junta on 17 and 18 July and 29 and 30 July 1997 in Abidjan on a peaceful resolution of the crisis, and reiterates its full support for the objectives of this mediation. It deeply regrets the breakdown of these talks, and considers that the responsibility for this failure rests entirely with the military junta which refused to negotiate in good faith.

The Council considers that the attempt by the military junta to set conditions for the restoration of the democratically elected Government is unacceptable, and calls upon the junta to renounce its declared intention to remain in power and to resume negotiations with the Committee of Four Ministers for Foreign Affairs without delay.

The Council will, in the absence of a satisfactory response from the military junta, be ready to take appropriate measures with the objective of restoring the democratically elected Government of President Kabbah.

¹⁶ S/PRST/1997/42.

The Security Council remains deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone and at the continued looting and commandeering of relief supplies of international agencies. It calls upon the military junta to cease all interference with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone. The Council condemns the continuing violence and threats of violence by the junta towards the civilian population, foreign nationals and personnel of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States, and calls for an end to such acts of violence. The Council also expresses its concern at the effects of the continuing influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, in particular Guinea, due to the crisis in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all States and relevant international organizations to provide help to these countries in dealing with this problem.

The Council will remain actively seized of this matter.

**Decision of 8 October 1997 (3822nd meeting):
resolution 1132 (1997)**

At the 3822nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 October 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Chile), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Nigeria and Sierra Leone, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The President then drew the attention of the Council to the text of a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.¹⁷

At the same meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone, while expressing his country's appreciation to the delegation of the United Kingdom for initiating the draft resolution which was before the Council, recalled that the Sierra Leoneans were aware that in their history, Queen Victoria often referred to Sierra Leone as "ancient and loyal Sierra Leone", and that Sierra Leoneans everywhere understood and appreciated that the United Kingdom was their loyal friend at the hour of crisis. He also thanked the members of the Security Council, particularly his African colleagues, for their efforts and stated that the draft resolution, as it stood, far exceeded their expectations. He, however, expressed his delegation's concern over extent to which the military junta in Freetown would take seriously what would happen in the Security Council. He expressed further concern at the "high degree of recklessness" shown by the military junta in Freetown in dealing with the international community. He stated

¹⁷ S/1997/777.

that the principal concern was that the junta should respect the institutional integrity of the Security Council. He informed the Council that since the coup d'état, the military junta had been consistently misled by "discredited" politicians and the so-called "elder statesmen" in Sierra Leone, who had told the military junta that the Security Council would reject the sanctions of ECOWAS and that the Council would not call for the restoration of the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone. He further added that during the four months of dialogue, the military junta had shown no inclination to agree to the restoration of the legitimate Government in Sierra Leone. His delegation believed that the draft resolution, if adopted, would perhaps make a new beginning — a new reality — which would enable the military junta to know that the world community was serious and wanted the legitimate Government to be restored. He further hoped that the draft resolution, when adopted, together with the talks that might start soon, would bring a new era in Sierra Leone, and one which was not one of recrimination but of reconciliation. In conclusion, the representative maintained that his delegation was in full agreement with the Secretary-General's statement that what they had in Sierra Leone was a matter of very serious principle, in which a Government was elected by the people under the rule of law.¹⁸

The representative of Nigeria stated that another important milestone had been reached in the fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and ECOWAS in their efforts to resolve the crisis situations in the subregion. He expressed satisfaction at the unchanged position of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and ECOWAS that the military junta in Freetown must step down and the democratically elected Government in Sierra Leone be restored without delay. He also urged the Security Council to remain unchanged on the principled position it had taken. He further informed the Council that although the initial round of talks between ECOWAS and the military junta, which aimed at a peaceful resolution of the crisis, had been encouraging and fruitful, the negotiations had fallen through during the following round of talks due to deliberate stalling and acts of bad faith on the part of the junta, whose representatives had reneged on their earlier commitments. Worse still, the regime had announced its intention to remain in power

for four years and the situation in Sierra Leone, which was bad enough at the inception of the coup d'état, had since deteriorated. The representative reiterated that faced with such a situation, ECOWAS was left with no option but to adopt a set of measures in the form of sanctions and an embargo as a means of pressuring the regime in Freetown. He further added that the decisions and actions taken by ECOWAS to resolve the Sierra Leonean crisis were guided by the following considerations: that the situation in Sierra Leone was a clear threat to international peace and security in view of its potential to destabilize the entire region; that the subregion wanted to avoid another costly and long drawn-out engagement similar to what it had experienced in Liberia, with the attendant massive humanitarian problems; and that while ECOWAS was sufficiently seized of the matter, the support and endorsement of the United Nations was essential. He echoed the draft resolution in acknowledging that ECOWAS was the body closest to the situation on the ground and that it had a mechanism in the form of a monitoring group to carry out effective monitoring and implementation of whatever measures were agreed upon. In that regard, he welcomed the inclusion in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution enabling authorization of the Council for ECOWAS to carry out the tasks mandated by the ECOWAS summit. In conclusion, he appealed to all members of the international community to assist the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to carry out those tasks by providing it with logistical assistance and vital information.¹⁹

Speaking before the vote, the representative of France stated that his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution and pointed out that while the draft resolution expressed the support of the United Nations for the efforts of the members of ECOWAS to bring about the peaceful restoration of constitutional order and the return of the democratically elected Government through negotiations, the decision of the States of the region to exert pressure in the form of economic sanctions, in view of the refusal of the perpetrators of the coup to join negotiations in good faith, were measures intended to promote a peaceful resolution of the crisis, and not to worsen the humanitarian situation of the people of Sierra Leone. With reference to the provisions for imposition of

¹⁸ S/PV.3822, pp. 2-3.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

sanctions provided in the draft resolution, he underlined that the sanctions were defined to cover only travel of members of the military junta and their families, as well as the supply of weapons and petroleum. While stating that the draft also contained some fairly precise criteria for the lifting of the sanctions and that the provisions made it possible to aim to avoid an indefinite extension of sanctions, he maintained that periodic decisions by the Council on the continuation of sanctions would be the best way to achieve that goal. He further voiced his delegation's concern with regard to the effects and economic consequences of the situation in Sierra Leone on neighbouring States since those States were taking in a very large number of refugees, without creating camps, and were generously opening their towns and resources to them.²⁰

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that his country, which had helped with the organization of the elections in March 1996, was appalled by the turn of events in Sierra Leone, and joined ECOWAS, OAU and the rest of the international community in condemning unequivocally the "arbitrary and unconstitutional" overthrow of a democratic Government. He also paid tribute to the dedicated efforts of the countries of ECOWAS and the Council's practical backing for it as provided in the draft resolution. He further stated that by establishing an international arms and oil embargo and visa restrictions on members of the junta, the Security Council was making clear to the illegal regime in Freetown that the entire international community was committed to reversing the military coup and restoring the democratically elected Government.²¹

The representative of the Russian Federation, maintaining that a new threat to stability had emerged in the troubled region, decisively condemned the perpetrators of the coup and firmly supported the demand made by African States that constitutional order be restored. He commended Africa's principled position on the question and the efforts of the member countries of ECOWAS to resolve the crisis in Sierra Leone. He pointed out however, that in order to attain the goal, peaceful means were to be used first and foremost and that given the active involvement of

ECOWAS in resolving the crisis in Sierra Leone, his delegation attached particular importance to strengthening coordination between the Security Council and the subregional organization. He further stressed that cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations on questions relating to the maintenance of peace and security should be based on the Charter of the United Nations and that enforcement action was not to be undertaken by regional organizations without the authorization of the Security Council. He stated that the powerful means of pressure on the junta brought into play by the Council — the embargo on the delivery of arms, military equipment, petroleum and petroleum products and visa restrictions on the leaders of the coup — had been fine-tuned and were aimed at specific targets. His delegation assumed that member countries of ECOWAS, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Sanctions Committee would carefully monitor the situation in Sierra Leone and regularly inform the Council of the impact that sanctions were having on the humanitarian situation there. Nevertheless, he voiced concern that the draft resolution did not establish a clear time-frame for the application of sanctions. This question was exceptionally important both for the effective impact on the conduct of parties targeted by the sanctions and for timely adjustments by the Council of measures it had adopted, in light of the results achieved. The point of sanctions was not to punish the party that had threatened international peace and security but to change the conduct of that party. The logic and practice of indefinite sanctions regimes could not in principle do that, and in his delegation's view they were counterproductive. Nevertheless, given the careful review of sanctions in six months' time, as envisaged in the draft resolution and in order to accommodate the wishes of African States for a speedy and unanimous adoption of a resolution, the delegation of the Russian Federation was prepared in this specific case to be flexible and to support the draft resolution.²²

The representative of Portugal, while fully supporting the objectives of the draft resolution before the Council, underlined that under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which foresaw the utilization of regional arrangements for the enforcement of Council decisions, ECOWAS had been authorized to ensure the strict implementation of the

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

²² *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

provisions of the draft resolution that were referred to in operative paragraph 8 and that the draft also sought the restoration of the democratically elected Government of Sierra Leone by peaceful means. Those sanctions were tailored to penalize those who had consistently refused to abide by the rules of democracy and they were not addressed against the people of Sierra Leone. He added that the crisis in Sierra Leone was worrying in itself on account of the usurpation of constitutional order, but it was also a destabilizing factor for the region, in particular for neighbouring countries, such as Liberia, where the still-fragile process of national reconciliation was trying to take hold.²³

The representative of the United States maintained that in voting for the draft resolution his delegation had joined with the citizens of Sierra Leone and with the other Council members to demand the immediate restoration of the democratically elected Government of President Kabbah and that with this draft resolution the Security Council had made clear its willingness to exercise the enforcement powers of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter in the service of that goal. Furthermore, with this draft resolution, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, the Security Council also joined in the efforts of ECOWAS to try to resolve the crisis as ECOWAS had successfully done for neighbouring Liberia. He pointed out that the Security Council was voting to support the ECOWAS plan of action for Sierra Leone with concrete measures — sanctions that had been carefully targeted. The sanctions were designed to have maximum impact against the illegal junta of Sierra Leone, while imposing a minimum burden on the civilian population. With regard to the concerns of some members about the time frame for the sanctions, the representative maintained that “compliance, and not the calendar, should govern the Council’s approach” and that the draft resolution had made clear how the junta could end those sanctions by restoring the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone.²⁴

At the same meeting, the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1132 (1997), which reads:

²³ Ibid., p. 13.

²⁴ Ibid., pp. 16-17.

The Security Council,

Recalling the statements by its President of 27 May, 11 July and 6 August 1997 condemning the military coup in Sierra Leone,

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-sixth ordinary session, held at Harare from 28 to 31 May 1997, concerning the situation in Sierra Leone,

Taking note also of the communiqué issued at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States on Sierra Leone, held in Conakry on 26 June 1997, the declaration on Sierra Leone of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States members of the Committee of Four, issued at Abidjan on 30 July 1997, and the final communiqué and the decision on sanctions against the military junta in Sierra Leone, issued at the summit of the Economic Community of West African States, held at Abuja on 28 and 29 August 1997,

Taking note further of the letter dated 7 October 1997 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council,

Expressing its full support and appreciation for the mediation efforts of the Committee of the Economic Community of West African States,

Reaffirming its view that the Abidjan Agreement continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone,

Deploring the fact that the military junta has not taken steps to allow the restoration of the democratically elected Government and a return to constitutional order,

Gravely concerned at the continued violence and loss of life in Sierra Leone following the military coup of 25 May 1997, the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in that country, and the consequences for neighbouring countries,

Determining that the situation in Sierra Leone constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Demands* that the military junta take immediate steps to relinquish power in Sierra Leone and make way for the restoration of the democratically elected Government and a return to constitutional order;

2. *Reiterates its call* upon the junta to end all acts of violence and to cease all interference with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone;

3. *Expresses its strong support* for the efforts of the Committee of the Economic Community of West African States to resolve the crisis in Sierra Leone, and encourages it to continue to work for the peaceful restoration of the

constitutional order, including through the resumption of negotiations;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Committee, to assist the search for a peaceful resolution of the crisis and, to that end, to work for a resumption of discussions with all parties to the crisis;

5. *Decides* that all States shall prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of members of the military junta and adult members of their families, as designated in accordance with paragraph 10 (f) below, provided that the entry into or transit through a particular State of any such person may be authorized by the Committee established by paragraph 10 below for verified humanitarian purposes or purposes consistent with paragraph 1 above, and provided that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse entry into its territory to its own nationals;

6. *Decides also* that all States shall prevent the sale or supply to Sierra Leone, by their nationals or from their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of petroleum and petroleum products and arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, whether or not originating in their territory;

7. *Decides further* that the Committee established by paragraph 10 below may authorize, on a case-by-case basis under a no-objection procedure:

(a) Application by the democratically elected Government of Sierra Leone for the importation into Sierra Leone of petroleum or petroleum products;

(b) Applications by any other Government or by United Nations agencies for the importation of petroleum or petroleum products into Sierra Leone for verified humanitarian purposes, or for the needs of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States, subject to acceptable arrangements for effective monitoring of delivery;

8. *Acting* under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, authorizes the Economic Community of West African States, cooperating with the democratically elected Government of Sierra Leone, to ensure strict implementation of the provisions of the present resolution relating to the supply of petroleum and petroleum products, and arms and related materiel of all types, including, where necessary and in conformity with applicable international standards, by halting inward maritime shipping in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations, and calls upon all States to cooperate with the Economic Community of West African States in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Economic Community of West African States to report every thirty days to the Committee established by paragraph 10 below on all activities undertaken pursuant to paragraph 8 above;

10. *Decides* to establish, in accordance with rule 28 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, a Committee of the Security Council consisting of all the members of the Council, to undertake the following tasks and to report on its work to the Council with its observations and recommendations:

(a) To seek from all States further information regarding the action taken by them with a view to implementing effectively the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 above;

(b) To consider information brought to its attention by States concerning violations of the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 above and to recommend appropriate measures in response thereto;

(c) To make periodic reports to the Security Council on information submitted to it regarding alleged violations of the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 above, identifying where possible persons or entities, including vessels, reported to be engaged in such violations;

(d) To promulgate such guidelines as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 above;

(e) To consider and decide on expeditiously requests for the approval of imports of petroleum and petroleum products in accordance with paragraph 7 above;

(f) To designate expeditiously members of the military junta and adult members of their families whose entry or transit is to be prevented in accordance with paragraph 5 above;

(g) To examine the reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs 9 above and 13 below;

(h) To establish liaison with the Committee of the Economic Community of West African States on the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 above;

11. *Calls upon* all States and all international and regional organizations to act strictly in conformity with the present resolution, notwithstanding the existence of any rights granted or obligations conferred or imposed by any international agreement or of any contract entered into or any licence or permit granted prior to the entry into force of the provisions set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 above;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Committee established by paragraph 10 above and to make the necessary arrangements in the Secretariat for this purpose;

13. *Requests* States to report to the Secretary-General within thirty days of the date of adoption of the present resolution on the steps they have taken to give effect to the provisions set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 above;

14. *Requests* all those concerned, including the Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations and other international humanitarian agencies, to establish appropriate arrangements for the provision of

humanitarian assistance and to endeavour to ensure that such assistance responds to local needs and is safely delivered to, and used by, its intended recipients;

15. *Urges* all States, international organizations and financial institutions to assist States in the region in addressing the economic and social consequences of the influx of refugees from Sierra Leone;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an initial report to the Council within fifteen days of the adoption of the present resolution on compliance with paragraph 1 above, and thereafter every sixty days after the date of adoption of the present resolution, on its implementation and on the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone;

17. *Decides*, if the measures set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 above have not been terminated in accordance with paragraph 19 below, to conduct, 180 days after the adoption of the present resolution and on the basis of the most recent report of the Secretary-General, a thorough review of the application of these measures and of any steps taken by the military junta to comply with paragraph 1 above;

18. *Urges* all States to provide technical and logistical support to assist the Economic Community of West African States in carrying out its responsibilities in the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Expresses its intention* to terminate the measures set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 above when the demand in paragraph 1 above has been complied with;

20. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Decision of 14 November 1997 (3834th meeting): statement by the President

On 14 November 1997, the Security Council held its 3834th meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. The President (China), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²⁵

The Security Council recalls its resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 and the statements by its President of 27 May, 11 July and 6 August 1997 in response to the military coup in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It reiterates its condemnation of the overthrow of the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, and its concern about the threat

to peace, security and stability in the region which the situation in Sierra Leone continues to present.

The Council expresses its full support and appreciation for the continued efforts of the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone of the Economic Community of West African States to seek a peaceful settlement of the crisis and the restoration of the democratically elected Government and constitutional order. In this regard, it welcomes the peace plan agreed upon in Conakry on 23 October 1997 between the Committee and representatives of the junta as set out in the documents issued after the meeting. It also notes with satisfaction President Kabbah's acceptance of the peace plan in his statement of 5 November 1997.

The Council calls upon the junta to fulfil its obligations under the peace plan, and in particular the ongoing maintenance of the ceasefire. It calls upon all parties concerned to work for the early and effective implementation of the peace plan, and encourages the Committee of the Economic Community of West African States to cooperate closely with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Sierra Leone.

The Council takes note with appreciation of the briefing on the outcome of the meeting in Conakry on 23 October 1997 provided to its members in New York by representatives of the Committee of the Economic Community of West African States on 11 November 1997. It expresses its readiness to consider how it can support the implementation of the peace plan, and looks forward to early recommendations from the Secretary-General on the role the United Nations could play to that end.

The Council reiterates the need for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance in response to local needs, and calls upon the junta to ensure its safe delivery to its intended recipients. It urges all States and relevant international organizations to continue to assist those countries dealing with the influx of refugees caused by the crisis in Sierra Leone.

The Council reminds all States of their obligation to comply strictly with the embargo on the sale or supply of petroleum and petroleum products and arms and related materiel of all types to Sierra Leone, and with the other measures imposed by its resolution 1132 (1997).

Decision of 26 February 1998 (3857th meeting): statement by the President

On 26 February 1998, the Security Council held its 3857th meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. The President (Gabon), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

²⁵ S/PRST/1997/52.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²⁶

The Security Council recalls its resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, and the statements by its President of 27 May, 11 July and 6 August 1997, following the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It expresses its deep regret at the violence, loss of life and property and immense suffering undergone by the people of Sierra Leone since the coup. It remains gravely concerned at the continued violence in the country and calls for an urgent end to the fighting.

The Council welcomes the fact that the rule of the military junta has been brought to an end, and stresses the imperative need for the immediate restoration of the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and a return to constitutional order, in accordance with paragraph 1 of its resolution 1132 (1997).

The Council encourages the earliest possible return to Freetown by President Kabbah and looks forward to his re-establishing a functioning and autonomous government in the country.

The Council expresses its readiness to terminate the measures imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 of its resolution 1132 (1997) as soon as the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of that resolution have been fulfilled.

The Council commends the important role that the Economic Community of West African States has continued to play towards the peaceful resolution of this crisis. The Council encourages the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States to proceed in its efforts to foster peace and stability in Sierra Leone, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. It underlines the need for close cooperation between the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone, the Economic Community of West African States, and in particular its Committee of Five Ministers for Foreign Affairs on Sierra Leone, the commanders of the Monitoring Group, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and his staff, United Nations agencies and relevant international organizations in their work, and specifically in the development of a plan for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into civilian life of all combatants in Sierra Leone. In this context, it supports the intention of the Secretary-General, subject to security conditions on the ground, to take rapid steps towards the reopening of the United Nations Liaison Office in Freetown in order to support the activities of his Special Envoy, and in particular to assist national reconciliation and political dialogue.

The Council expresses the view that the Conakry Agreement and the Abidjan Agreement provide important elements for a framework for peace, stability and national reconciliation in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all parties in Sierra

Leone to work towards these objectives through peaceful means and political dialogue. In this regard, it condemns all reprisal killings and related violence in Sierra Leone and calls for an immediate end to such acts.

The Council looks forward to detailed proposals by the Secretary-General concerning the role of the United Nations and its future presence in Sierra Leone. It requests the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to support such activities and calls upon all Member States to make early contributions to it.

The Council welcomes the interim report of the inter-agency assessment mission to Sierra Leone of 10 February 1998 and commends those Member States and international organizations which have provided urgent humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone. It remains deeply concerned about the serious and fragile humanitarian situation in the country, and calls upon all States and international organizations to provide further urgent assistance to Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries affected by the crisis. It calls upon the Monitoring Group and all those concerned to ensure safe and unrestricted access to those in need.

The Council expresses its concern about the safety of all humanitarian personnel in Sierra Leone and condemns the taking of hostages by former members of the deposed junta. It calls for the immediate release of all international personnel and others who have been detained or held hostage. It commends the Monitoring Group for its efforts to liberate those individuals being held against their will.

The Council will remain seized of this matter.

**Decision of 16 March 1998 (3861st meeting):
resolution 1156 (1998)**

By a letter dated 9 March 1998 addressed to the President of the Security Council,²⁷ the representative of Sierra Leone requested a meeting of the Security Council to consider, following the ouster of the illegal military junta by forces of ECOMOG, the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the importation of petroleum and petroleum products into the country by paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1132 (1997).

At the 3861st meeting of the Council, held on 16 March 1998 in response to the request of the representative of Sierra Leone, the President (Gambia), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The President then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution

²⁷ S/1998/215.

²⁶ S/PRST/1998/5.

submitted by Kenya and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.²⁸

At the same meeting, the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1156 (1998), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 and the relevant statements by its President,

Taking note of the letter dated 9 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the return to Sierra Leone of its democratically elected President on 10 March 1998;

2. *Decides* to terminate, with immediate effect, the prohibitions on the sale or supply to Sierra Leone of petroleum and petroleum products referred to in paragraph 6 of resolution 1132 (1997);

3. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to make proposals concerning the role of the United Nations and its future presence in Sierra Leone;

4. *Decides* to review the other prohibitions referred to in resolution 1132 (1997) in accordance with paragraph 17 of that resolution and in the light of developments and further discussion with the Government of Sierra Leone;

5. *Decides also* to remain seized of the matter.

**Decision of 17 April 1998 (3872nd meeting):
resolution 1162 (1998)**

At its 3872nd meeting, on 17 April 1998, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council resumed its consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Sierra Leone". The Council had before it the fourth report of the Secretary-General,²⁹ submitted pursuant to the presidential statement of 26 February 1998, in which the Council had requested the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals concerning the role of the United Nations and its future presence in Sierra Leone.³⁰ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the removal of the military junta by the action of ECOMOG, which

opened the way for the re-establishment not just of the legitimate Government but also of civil order, was a positive development. He commended the consistent diplomacy of ECOWAS and called on it to continue its efforts to bring peace to Sierra Leone. To take advantage of the changed situation, the Secretary-General proposed a comprehensive set of measures to assist the Government and people of Sierra Leone in both their immediate and longer-term needs, including the strengthening of the office of his Special Envoy in Freetown. In addition, he recommended the deployment to Sierra Leone of military liaison personnel and the provision of humanitarian assistance. He also called upon Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for Sierra Leone.

At the same meeting, the President (Japan), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.³¹ The draft resolution was put to the vote and unanimously adopted as resolution 1162 (1998), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 and 1156 (1998) of 16 March 1998 and the statement by its President of 26 February 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 18 March 1998,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the democratically elected President of Sierra Leone since his return on 10 March 1998 and by the Government of Sierra Leone to restore peaceful and secure conditions in the country, to re-establish effective administration and the democratic process and to embark on the task of reconstruction and rehabilitation;

2. *Commends* the Economic Community of West African States and its Monitoring Group, deployed in Sierra Leone, on the important role they are playing in support of the objectives related to the restoration of peace and security set out in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to promote national reconciliation in Sierra Leone, and encourages all parties in the country to work together towards this objective;

²⁸ S/1998/232.

²⁹ S/1998/249 and Add.1.

³⁰ S/PRST/1998/5.

³¹ S/1998/324.

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the office of his Special Envoy in Freetown with necessary civilian and military personnel with the aims proposed in his report of 18 March 1998;

5. *Authorizes* the deployment, with immediate effect, of up to ten United Nations military liaison and security advisory personnel, in accordance with paragraph 44 of the report of the Secretary-General, to Sierra Leone for a period of up to ninety days, to work under the authority of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, to coordinate closely with the Government of Sierra Leone and the Monitoring Group, to report on the military situation in the country, to ascertain the state of and to assist in the finalization of planning by the Monitoring Group for future tasks, such as the identification of the former combatant elements to be disarmed and the design of a disarmament plan, as well as to perform other related security tasks as identified in paragraphs 42, 45 and 46 of the report of the Secretary-General;

6. *Welcomes* the discussions taking place between the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, the Government of Sierra Leone and the Monitoring Group on the further elaboration and implementation of the concept of operations of the Monitoring Group, and the intention of the Secretary-General to revert to the Council with further recommendations on the possible deployment in this regard of United Nations military personnel, and expresses its intention to consider such recommendations and take a decision thereon expeditiously;

7. *Urges* all States and international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone, in response to the consolidated inter-agency appeal launched on 3 March 1998;

8. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to assist and participate in the longer term tasks of reconstruction and economic and social recovery and development in Sierra Leone;

9. *Urges* all States to make contributions to the trust fund which has been established to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone, and to provide technical and logistical support to assist the Monitoring Group to continue to carry out its peacekeeping role;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council periodically, including on the activities of the military liaison and security advisory personnel referred to in paragraph 5 above and on the work of the office of his Special Envoy in Sierra Leone, within the reporting time frame in paragraph 16 of resolution 1132 (1997);

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

**Decision of 20 May 1998 (3882nd meeting):
statement by the President**

On 20 May 1998, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the

Security Council held its 3882nd meeting at which the President (Kenya), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:³²

The Security Council condemns as gross violations of international humanitarian law the recent atrocities carried out against the civilian population of Sierra Leone, particularly women and children, by members of the Revolutionary United Front and the deposed military junta, including widespread rape, mutilation, and slaughter. It calls for an immediate end to all violence against civilians. The Council, in this regard, expresses grave concern about reports of military support being provided to the rebels. It calls upon all States to observe strictly the provisions of resolution 1132 (1997) and to avoid any action that might further destabilize the situation in Sierra Leone.

The Council deplores the continued resistance to the authority of the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone and calls upon all rebels to cease their resistance, lay down their arms, and surrender to forces of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States immediately. It again commends the Economic Community of West African States and the Monitoring Group for the important role they are playing to restore peace and security in Sierra Leone. The Council reiterates its call for States to provide technical and logistical support to assist the Monitoring Group to continue to enhance its ability to carry out its peacekeeping role and contribute to bringing an end to the atrocities being committed against the people of Sierra Leone.

The Council expresses deep concern for the plight of all those affected by the continuing insecurity, including the tens of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. It urges all those concerned to continue humanitarian assistance and underscores the importance of a comprehensive response by United Nations agencies in coordination with the Government of Sierra Leone and with the support of the Monitoring Group. The Council also recognizes the important role played by the international community, including the Organization of African Unity and relevant non-governmental organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians in dire need in Sierra Leone. The Council commends the Governments of neighbouring countries for their reception of refugees and calls upon all States and relevant international organizations to help them in responding to the refugee crisis.

The Council expresses concern for the safety of all humanitarian personnel working in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all parties concerned to facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies. The Council urges the parties to protect displaced

³² S/PRST/1998/13.

persons seeking refuge, as well as United Nations and humanitarian aid workers.

The Council welcomes the efforts made by the democratically elected Government since its return on 10 March 1998 to restore peace and stability and to re-establish effective administration and the democratic process in Sierra Leone. It encourages the Economic Community of West African States to renew its political efforts to foster peace and stability and urges all parties in the country to embark on the tasks of national reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation. The Council urges all parties concerned to respect fully international law, including human rights and humanitarian law.

The Council urges States and other parties concerned to contribute to the trust fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone, and to humanitarian assistance efforts.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it advised on the situation in Sierra Leone.

The Council will remain seized of this matter.

**Decision of 5 June 1998 (3889th meeting):
resolution 1171 (1998)**

At the 3889th meeting of the Security Council, held on 5 June 1998 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Portugal), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.³³ The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1171 (1998), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, 1156 (1998) of 16 March 1998 and 1162 (1998) of 17 April 1998 and the statements by its President of 26 February and 20 May 1998,

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to restore peaceful and secure conditions in the country, to re-establish effective administration and the democratic process, and to promote national reconciliation,

Deploring the continued resistance to the authority of the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone, and stressing the

urgency for all rebels to put an end to the atrocities, cease their resistance and lay down their arms,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to terminate the remaining prohibitions imposed by paragraphs 5 and 6 of resolution 1132 (1997);

2. *Also decides*, with a view to prohibiting the sale and supply of arms and related materiel to non-governmental forces in Sierra Leone, that all States shall prevent the sale or supply, by their nationals or from their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, to Sierra Leone other than to the Government of Sierra Leone through named points of entry on a list to be supplied by that Government to the Secretary-General, who shall promptly notify all States Members of the United Nations of the list;

3. *Further decides* that the restrictions referred to in paragraph 2 above shall not apply to the sale or supply of arms and related materiel for the sole use in Sierra Leone of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States or the United Nations;

4. *Decides* that States shall notify all exports from their territories of arms or related materiel to Sierra Leone to the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997), that the Government of Sierra Leone shall mark, register and notify to the Committee all imports made by it of arms and related materiel, and that the Committee shall report regularly to the Council on notifications so received;

5. *Also decides* that all States shall prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of leading members of the former military junta and of the Revolutionary United Front, as designated by the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997), provided that the entry into or transit through a particular State of any such person may be authorized by the same Committee, and provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse its own nationals entry to its territory;

6. *Further decides* that the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997) shall continue to undertake the tasks referred to in subparagraphs 10 (a), (b), (c), (d), (f) and (h) of paragraph 10 of that resolution in relation to paragraphs 2 and 5 above;

7. *Expresses its readiness* to terminate the measures referred to in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 above once the control of the Government of Sierra Leone has been fully re-established over all its territory, and when all non-governmental forces have been disarmed and demobilized;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council within three months of the date of adoption of the present resolution, and again within six months, regarding, in

³³ S/1998/466.

particular, the export of arms and related materiel referred to in paragraph 2 above, and on progress made towards the objectives referred to in paragraph 7 above;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

**Decision of 13 July 1998 (3902nd meeting):
resolution 1181 (1998)**

At its 3902nd meeting on 13 July 1998, the Security Council, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, resumed its consideration of the item entitled “The situation in Sierra Leone”. The Council had before it the fifth report of the Secretary-General, dated 9 June 1998.³⁴ In his report, submitted in accordance with the time frame set out in paragraph 16 of resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, the Secretary-General observed that the situation in Sierra Leone had, in some respects, improved considerably; however, in the eastern part of Sierra Leone and in parts of the north, the remnants of the former junta continued to resist ECOMOG forces and attack Sierra Leonean civilians. He recommended that the Security Council establish an observer mission in Sierra Leone to be known as the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL). He also supported the recommendation of his Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict that Sierra Leone be made one of the pilot projects for a more concerted and effective response in the context of post-conflict peacebuilding.

At the same meeting, the President (Russian Federation), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Austria, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The President also drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council’s prior consultations.³⁵

At the same meeting, speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated and aligned countries,³⁶ the representative of Austria welcomed the decision of the Council to establish UNOMSIL and agreed that through the deployment of military observers, civilian police staff and human rights

officers a much needed impetus could be lent to the vital but still fragile peace and reconciliation process in Sierra Leone. He also welcomed the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to establish a national commission for reconstruction, resettlement and rehabilitation. He encouraged ECOMOG to proceed in its efforts to foster peace and stability in Sierra Leone and to cooperate closely with UNOMSIL. It was the European Union’s view that successful national reconstruction and rehabilitation had to be accompanied by regional cooperation. The European Union welcomed the efforts of regional leaders to promote mutual cooperation in the subregion and, particularly, relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone. He maintained that the European Union as the principal donor would continue to provide humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone and would also provide assistance to Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea. The European Union welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to convene a special conference to mobilize international assistance for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Sierra Leone.³⁷

The representative of the United Kingdom welcomed the Secretary-General’s initiative to hold a high-level special political conference on Sierra Leone to help mobilize support for ECOMOG and the Government of Sierra Leone and urged the States Members of the United Nations to contribute to the Trust Fund. He stressed that the intervention of ECOMOG, the creation of the national disarmament and demobilization plan and the forthcoming deployment of UNOMSIL had created the conditions for a decisive change in Sierra Leone.³⁸

The representative of Nigeria stated that the adoption of a draft resolution creating UNOMSIL would be a milestone in the constructive relationship between the United Nations and ECOWAS in the efforts to restore peace and security to Sierra Leone. He maintained that it was important to emphasize that the success of UNOMSIL would depend to a large extent on continued close cooperation and mutual support between UNOMSIL and ECOMOG, and that such cooperation and support would encourage greater

³⁴ S/1998/486 and Add.1.

³⁵ S/1998/620.

³⁶ S/PV.3902, p. 2 (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia; and Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Norway).

³⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 2-3.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

and successful collaboration not only between the United Nations and ECOWAS but also between the United Nations and other regional bodies.³⁹

The representative of Japan maintained that his country's support for the draft resolution was based on its understanding that the role of UNOMSIL was to monitor the disarmament and demobilization process on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone and ECOMOG, as well as to provide the necessary support for the maintenance of peace and security in the region, and that UNOMSIL would build upon the work of the Special Envoy, and in coordination with ECOMOG would provide the effective means of fostering the normalization of the situation in that country. Japan also welcomed the deployment of ECOMOG to monitor the border area between Liberia and Sierra Leone.⁴⁰

The representative of France, while maintaining that the presence of UNOMSIL would help to stabilize the situation in Sierra Leone, underlined that UNOMSIL was an interesting, promising and potentially fruitful experiment in coordination between a regional operation — that of ECOMOG on behalf of ECOWAS — and a United Nations operation. The success of UNOMSIL would depend on tangible cooperation between the two missions along the desired lines between the United Nations and the regional organizations.⁴¹

The representative of the United States maintained that the relationship between ECOMOG and the United Nations observers would be cooperative, as it was in Liberia. He hoped that the Secretary-General would quickly conclude status mission agreements with the Government of Sierra Leone and ECOWAS and applauded the commitment of ECOMOG to partnership and protection of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone. Commenting on the draft resolution, he said that it reinforced his delegation's serious concern at reports of cross-border arms flows and support to the rebels in Sierra Leone, and that it reiterated the arms embargo that the Council had authorized in October. The neighbouring States had responsibility for implementing that embargo. He stated further that

although preventing cross-border arms flow was a worthy idea, the United States had reservations about the proposal for border monitors under the existing circumstances, since the unfortunate reality was that ECOMOG was already overstretched and did not have the capability to take on this responsibility. The priority was to channel additional support for ECOMOG into its central function of providing security in Sierra Leone rather than monitoring the border or providing security for other monitors. He also underlined that coordination and planning among a variety of agencies and entities was critical to the success of conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.⁴²

Several other speakers, while commending the efforts of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to restore peace and security to Sierra Leone, welcomed the decision to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) as an important contribution of the international community to the process of peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.⁴³

At the same meeting, the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1181 (1998), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions and the statements by its President,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to restore peaceful and secure conditions in the country, to re-establish effective administration and the democratic process and to embark on the task of national reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation,

Recognizing the important contribution of the Economic Community of West African States in support of these objectives,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 9 June 1998,

Noting the objectives set by the Economic Community of West African States for its Monitoring Group, as described in paragraph 17 of the report of Secretary-General,

³⁹ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 8.

⁴¹ Ibid., pp. 11-12.

⁴² Ibid., pp. 13-14.

⁴³ Ibid., p. 6 (Kenya); p. 7 (Slovenia); pp. 8-9 (Costa Rica); p. 9 (China); p. 10 (Bahrain); pp. 10-11 (Sweden); pp. 12-13 (Brazil); and p. 15 (Russian Federation).

Gravely concerned at the loss of life and immense suffering undergone by the people of Sierra Leone, including refugees and displaced persons, as a result of the continuing rebel attacks, and in particular at the plight of children affected by the conflict,

1. *Condemns* the continued resistance of remnants of the ousted junta and members of the Revolutionary United Front to the authority of the legitimate government and the violence they are perpetrating against the civilian population of Sierra Leone, and demands that they lay down their arms immediately;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to promote national reconciliation in Sierra Leone, encourages all parties in the country to work together towards this objective, and welcomes the assistance of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy in that regard;

3. *Welcomes* the proposal in the report of the Secretary-General of 9 June 1998 on the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone;

4. *Notes* that the Government of Sierra Leone has adopted a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan agreed upon with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and other donors;

5. *Commends* the positive role of the Economic Community of West African States and its Monitoring Group in their efforts to restore peace, security and stability throughout the country at the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, and notes the role of the Monitoring Group in assisting the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan adopted by the Government, including the provision of security and responsibility for arms collection and destruction;

6. *Decides* to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone for an initial period of six months until 13 January 1999, and further decides that it shall include up to seventy military observers as well as a small medical unit, with the necessary equipment and civilian support staff, with the following mandate:

(a) To monitor the military and security situation in the country as a whole, as security conditions permit, and to provide the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with regular information thereon, in particular with a view to determining when conditions are sufficiently secure to allow subsequent deployments of military observers beyond the first phase described in paragraph 7 below;

(b) To monitor the disarmament and demobilization of former combatants concentrated in secure areas of the country, including monitoring of the role of the Monitoring Group in the provision of security and in the collection and destruction of arms in those secure areas;

(c) To assist in monitoring respect for international humanitarian law, including at disarmament and demobilization sites, where security conditions permit;

(d) To monitor the voluntary disarmament and demobilization of members of the Civil Defence Forces, as security conditions permit;

7. *Decides also* that the elements of the Mission referred to in paragraph 6 above shall be deployed as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, with approximately forty military observers deployed in the first phase to the areas secured by the Monitoring Group, and that subsequent deployments shall take place as soon as security conditions permit, and subject to progress on the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan and the availability of the necessary equipment and resources;

8. *Decides further* that the Mission shall be led by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, who will be designated Special Representative for Sierra Leone, that the Mission shall subsume the office of the Special Envoy and its civilian staff, and that the augmented civilian staff, as recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 74 and 75 of his report, shall perform, inter alia, the following tasks:

(a) To advise, in coordination with other international efforts, the Government of Sierra Leone and local police officials on police practice, training, re-equipment and recruitment, in particular on the need to respect internationally accepted standards of policing in democratic societies, to advise on the planning of the reform and restructuring of the Sierra Leone police force, and to monitor progress in that regard;

(b) To report on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in Sierra Leone, and, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies, to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in its efforts to address the country's human rights needs;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Monitoring Group to ensure the security of United Nations personnel, and in this regard welcomes also the intention of the Secretary-General to establish security arrangements for United Nations personnel with the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and to conclude a status-of-mission agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone;

10. *Decides* that the elements of the Mission referred to in paragraph 6 above shall be deployed when the Secretary-General informs the Council that security arrangements and the status-of-mission agreement have been concluded, and further decides to keep the deployment of the Mission under review in the light of the prevailing security conditions;

11. *Stresses* the need for full cooperation and close coordination between the Mission and the Monitoring Group in their respective operational activities;

12. *Demands* that all factions and forces in Sierra Leone strictly respect the status of Mission personnel, as well as

organizations and agencies delivering humanitarian assistance throughout Sierra Leone, and that they respect human rights and abide by applicable rules of international humanitarian law;

13. *Expresses its serious concern* at the reports of cross-border arms flows and support to the rebels in Sierra Leone, welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General, as indicated in his report, to pursue with all parties concerned steps to eliminate these activities, and in that regard reaffirms the obligation of all States to comply strictly with the terms of the embargo on the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to Sierra Leone imposed by resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998, and to bring all instances of violations of the arms embargo before the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to coordinate an effective national response to the needs of children affected by armed conflict, and the recommendation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict that Sierra Leone be made one of the pilot projects for a more concerted and effective response to the needs of children in the context of post-conflict peacebuilding;

15. *Welcomes also* the decision of the Secretary-General to convene a high-level conference to mobilize assistance for peacekeeping activities, emergency and humanitarian needs and reconstruction and rehabilitation in Sierra Leone;

16. *Reiterates its urgent appeal* to States to make contributions to the trust fund which has been established to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone, to provide technical and logistical support to assist the Monitoring Group to carry out its peacekeeping role, and to help to facilitate the provision by other States members of the Economic Community of West African States of additional troops to strengthen the deployment of the Monitoring Group in Sierra Leone;

17. *Urges* all States and international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone, in response to the consolidated inter-agency appeal launched on 24 June 1998;

18. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to assist and participate in the longer term tasks of reconstruction and economic and social recovery and development in Sierra Leone;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an initial report to the Council within thirty days of the adoption of resolution and every sixty days thereafter on the deployment of the Mission and on its progress in carrying out its mandate, and also to inform the Council on plans for the later phases of the deployment of the Mission when security conditions permit these to be implemented;

20. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Deliberations of 18 December 1998 (3957th meeting)

On 16 December 1998, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1181 (1998), the Secretary-General submitted to the Council a report on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.⁴⁴ In his report the Secretary-General observed that despite the progress made by the Government in consolidating its authority, he was disturbed at the continuing attacks inflicted by the rebels on civilians in the north. He stated that the elaboration of a dual-track approach to the resolution of the conflict following the ECOWAS summit of 31 October 1998 and the London meeting of the international contact group was a welcome development, and that UNOMSIL would work with the Government to pursue the approach. He called on the Government to explore ways to encourage more rebels to lay down their arms and surrender in order to avoid more bloodshed. He stated that clear evidence had emerged during the national consultative process that the people of Sierra Leone were willing to reconcile themselves with the rebels, on condition that they accept the authority of the Government, lay down their arms and surrender. He also noted that he was particularly encouraged by the outcome of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Mano River Union on 12 November 1998, at which the Presidents of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea agreed to strengthen the Union and improve their mutual relations. The Secretary-General stressed that the importance of the subregional approach to the strengthening of stability and security could not be overemphasized. He concluded by saying that UNOMSIL had proved its value to the Government and people of Sierra Leone and therefore he recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone be extended for a further period of six months, until 13 July 1999. He also noted that he was planning a modest expansion of the civilian staff of UNOMSIL, to address the growing demands on the ground and to be able to assist the Government and people of Sierra Leone in their efforts.

At its 3957th meeting, held on 18 December 1998 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council included the report of the Secretary-General in its agenda. Following the

⁴⁴ S/1998/1176.

adoption of the agenda, the President (Bahrain), with the consent of the Council, invited the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to participate in the discussion under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations stated that, while the Government of Sierra Leone had continued to consolidate its political authority during the period under review, the military and security situation continued to be extremely volatile and unpredictable because of the persistent resistance of elements of the former military junta, which were especially active in the east and north of the country. He informed the Council that they were endeavouring to bring about the deployment of up to 70 military observers, as well as a 15-person medical unit, that the Council had authorized. However, since the security situation had not improved, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme had not progressed, only 40 military observers had been deployed to date. With regard to the humanitarian situation, he stated that the efforts of the humanitarian community to maintain access to populations in need, especially in the north and the east, had been disrupted further in the last few days by a spate of rebel attacks near Freetown, which had caused thousands of villagers to flee and had rendered the roads unsafe.⁴⁵

The representative of Sweden stated that in his capacity as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Sanctions Committee he had visited the area, to make clear that the Council was actively engaged in the implementation of sanctions and ensuring that they were enforced. Summarizing the situation in the country, he stated that Sierra Leone was still plagued by a civil war and the rebels had proved to be a very tough target. The acts of terror committed against civilians by the rebels in Sierra Leone were horrendous and the atrocities hard to describe. The humanitarian situation was also serious. He maintained that it was hard to see that any military solution could provide a lasting peace in Sierra Leone and that no effort ought to be spared to get the rebels to lay down their arms and surrender. He stressed the importance of the regional approach and of the relationship between Sierra Leone and Liberia. On the question of sanctions,

⁴⁵ S/PV.3957, pp. 2-4.

he stated it was obvious they were not fully implemented and there were many reports of arms and ammunition getting through to the rebels from outside Sierra Leone, in contravention of the mandatory Security Council resolution. He stated that there was a strong perception in Sierra Leone that outside support was coming in from Liberia. The President of Liberia had stated that he could not dispute that some trafficking of arms had indeed come through Liberia, but he also stated that his Government had not been involved and also denied reports that the rebel leaders had been allowed to travel freely in his country. Referring to the proposal to set up a system of joint border controls between the two countries, the representative stated that it would be useful if the United Nations together with the international community were to consider supporting such joint operations. In conclusion, he reiterated that in the end it rested upon each and every State to do its utmost to ensure respect for United Nations sanctions.⁴⁶

The representative of France stated that although serious difficulties remained, with an impact on the humanitarian situation of the population, it was clear that the internal situation in Sierra Leone depended also on what took place at the regional level, so the Council should support anything that could be done to promote rapprochement among the three leaders and their countries. On the internal level, there was clearly only one solution: dialogue. The solution also needed to include support for regional initiatives, namely, for ECOWAS and ECOMOG. Finally, he stated that the Council needed to question itself about the effectiveness of its policy of embargo on the supply of arms to rebels in Sierra Leone, and whether it perhaps needed to be strengthened to promote an abatement of tension and an end to conflict in Sierra Leone.⁴⁷

The representative of Japan noted that there had been a request for the United Nations military observers to be deployed in assisting ECOMOG in patrolling the frontier. There had also been a proposal for cooperation between Liberia and Sierra Leone in joint border patrols. He questioned whether this would be viable and if it was worthwhile pursuing the

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

expansion of the mandate and strength of UNOMSIL if necessary.⁴⁸

The representative of the United States inquired regarding the joint border monitoring mechanism proposal between Liberia and Sierra Leone, what practical steps might be taken or what role the Council or the Secretariat might play in trying to help the process along. Second, on the question of force protection of the United Nations personnel deployed there, he asked whether arrangements were still adequate for their protection or whether consideration was still being given to any redeployment of the personnel of UNOMSIL.⁴⁹

The representative of the United Kingdom maintained that his country had a very strong interest in remedying the situation. The people of Sierra Leone had to be protected, and although UNOMSIL was doing excellent work, there was a particular and urgent need for the international community to give greater support to ECOWAS, in particular to enable further troops to be sent there to join those troops already in the field.⁵⁰

The representative of China stressed that he was deeply disturbed by continuing reports that large amounts of arms had been flowing illegally from Liberia into rebel hands in Sierra Leone. The Security Council needed to attach great importance to that, since it not only violated the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, but had also caused harm to large numbers of innocent civilians. He proposed that the Security Council Sanctions Committees on Sierra Leone and Liberia carry out the necessary investigation and propose measures for improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the arms embargo. He expressed the hope that the two Sanctions Committees could strengthen their coordination and exchanges in order to strengthen the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.⁵¹

Several other speakers stressed the need to support the work of UNOMSIL and ECOWAS, and expressed concern over the humanitarian situation. A

number of speakers also stressed the importance of strictly enforcing the sanctions.⁵²

The representative of Sweden responded to questions on the proposal for joint border surveillance between Sierra Leone and Liberia and possible assistance in that endeavour by the United Nations, stating that the proposal still had to be elaborated by the two countries and suggested that the Secretariat follow up on the discussions. However, any positioning of United Nations observers in the border zone would require that necessary security assurances be obtained, as there was at that time not enough security.⁵³

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations also responded to the question on border monitoring and stressed that it was essentially a question of security. He stated that there was a role for the Sierra Leonean authorities and ECOMOG, but taking into account the difficulties and the means at the disposal of ECOMOG, it was clear that they did not have the capacity to deploy their troops along the border. With regard to measures taken to guarantee the safety of observers, he stressed that the security situation was being continuously reviewed at each of the sites where observers were deployed.⁵⁴

**Decision of 7 January 1999 (3963rd meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 3963rd meeting of the Security Council, held in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Brazil) with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁵⁵

The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the attacks by armed rebels of the former junta and the Revolutionary United Front in the capital of Sierra Leone and at the resulting suffering and loss of life. It condemns the unacceptable attempt by the rebels to overthrow by violence the

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 8.

⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 13.

⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 13.

⁵¹ Ibid., pp. 13-14.

⁵² Ibid., p. 7 (Kenya); pp. 7-8 (Costa Rica); pp. 8-9

(Brazil); pp. 10-11 (Portugal); pp. 11-12 (Slovenia);

p. 12 (Gabon); pp. 13-14 (Gambia); and p. 14 (Russian Federation).

⁵³ Ibid., pp. 14-15.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 15.

⁵⁵ S/PRST/1999/1.

democratically elected Government of Sierra Leone. The Council also condemns the continued campaign by the rebels to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone and, especially, the atrocities committed against women and children. The Council demands that the rebels lay down their arms immediately and cease all violence. The Council reiterates once more its firm support for the legitimate and democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

The Council strongly condemns all those who have afforded support, including through the supply of arms and mercenaries, to the rebels in Sierra Leone. In this context, it expresses its grave concern at reports that such support to the rebels is being afforded in particular from the territory of Liberia. It reaffirms the obligation of all Member States to comply strictly with existing arms embargoes. In that context, the Council urges the Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) to pursue active measures to investigate violations of the embargoes and to report to the Council, with recommendations as appropriate.

The Council stresses the importance of dialogue and national reconciliation for the restoration of lasting peace and stability to Sierra Leone. The Council welcomes the efforts to resolve the conflict being undertaken by the Government of President Kabbah, and further endorses the approach set out in the final communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of Six on Sierra Leone of the Economic Community of West African States, held in Abidjan on 28 December 1998. It welcomes the offers made by leaders in the region aimed at resolving the conflict and, in that context, urges them, including the Committee of Six, to facilitate the peace process. It also calls upon the Secretary-General to do all he can to assist in these efforts, including through his Special Representative.

The Council also expresses its concern at the serious humanitarian consequences of the escalating fighting in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all States and international organizations to provide appropriate humanitarian assistance and upon all parties in Sierra Leone to afford humanitarian access. The Council notes that United Nations agencies are working with the increasing numbers of refugees in neighbouring countries and calls upon all States to ensure that the humanitarian agencies are adequately resourced to meet the additional demand.

The Council commends the forces of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States in Sierra Leone for the courage and determination they have demonstrated over the last year in their efforts to maintain security in Sierra Leone. It also commends the key contribution of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in efforts to restore stability in the country. The Council urges all States urgently to provide resources, including logistical and other support, to help to maintain an effective peacekeeping presence in Sierra Leone.

The Council expresses its intention to continue to monitor the situation closely and to consider urgently any further action which may be necessary.

Decision of 12 January 1999 (3964th meeting): resolution 1220 (1999)

On 16 December 1998, pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 1181 (1998), the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council his third progress report on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.⁵⁶ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that, despite the progress made by the Sierra Leonean Government in consolidating its authority, the continuing attacks inflicted by the rebels on civilians and the atrocities and abductions that accompanied such attacks were disturbing. However, the elaboration of a dual-track approach to the resolution of the conflict following the ECOWAS summit of 31 October 1998 and the London meeting of the International Contact Group of 5 November was a welcome development, and UNOMSIL would work with the Government to pursue this approach. He was encouraged by the outcome of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Mano River Union on 12 November 1998, at which the Presidents of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea agreed to continue to strengthen the Union and improve their mutual relations, and that the importance of the subregional approach to the strengthening of stability and security in all three countries could not be overemphasized. As UNOMSIL had proved its value to the Government and people of Sierra Leone in restoring order and peace in the country, the Secretary-General recommended to the Council that the mandate of UNOMSIL be extended for a further period of six months until 13 July 1999. He further observed that the uncertain security situation in parts of the country and the delays to which the Government's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme had consequently been subjected made it premature at that stage to proceed with further deployments of United Nations military observers, as authorized by resolution 1181 (1998).

On 7 January 1999, pursuant to resolution 1181 (1998) and in view of the serious developments in Sierra Leone since his third progress report, the Secretary-General decided to submit to the Council a special report on the United Nations Observer Mission

⁵⁶ S/1998/1176.

in Sierra Leone.⁵⁷ In his report, the Secretary-General deplored the intensification of hostilities and the rebel attacks on Freetown. The ECOWAS Committee of Six on Sierra Leone had shown commendable initiative and resolve. He endorsed its conclusions and urged ECOWAS to meet at the summit level to consider ways of dealing with the situation. He stated that ECOWAS and ECOMOG should not bear the burden alone. He commended the Governments of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States for their past and continuing efforts to ensure the provision of the necessary logistical support to ECOMOG, and encouraged Member States to be prepared to make further contributions to the peace process as might be required. He recommended that the mandate of UNOMSIL be extended for a two-month period until 13 March 1999.

[At its 3964th meeting, held on 12 January 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the Secretary-General's reports in its agenda. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (Brazil), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Sierra Leone and Togo, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.⁵⁸ The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1220 (1999), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, and the statement by its President of 7 January 1999,

Expressing its deep concern over the recent deterioration of the situation in Sierra Leone, and encouraging all efforts aimed at resolving the conflict and restoring lasting peace and stability,

Having considered the third progress report of the Secretary-General of 16 December 1998 on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and his special report on the Mission of 7 January 1999, and noting the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone until 13 March 1999;

⁵⁷ S/1999/20.

⁵⁸ S/1999/26.

2. *Takes note* of the intention of the Secretary-General, as expressed in paragraph 37 of his special report, to reduce the number of military observers in the Mission and to retain in Conakry a small number who would return to Sierra Leone when conditions permit, together with the necessary civilian substantive and logistical support staff under the leadership of his Special Representative;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council closely informed on the situation in Sierra Leone and to submit a further report to the Council with recommendations on the future deployment of the Mission and on the implementation of its mandate by 5 March 1999;

4. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Decision of 11 March 1999 (3986th meeting): resolution 1231 (1999)

On 4 March 1999, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1220 (1999), the Secretary-General submitted to the Council his fifth report on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.⁵⁹

At the 3986th meeting of the Security Council, held on 11 March 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council included the Secretary-General's report in its agenda. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (China) invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The President then drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.⁶⁰

In his statement to the Council, the representative of Sierra Leone acknowledged the special role that the Government of Nigeria had continued to play in peacekeeping and in the maintenance of international peace and security, not only in their subregion but in Africa at large. He maintained that his Government had made enough serious efforts to hold a dialogue with the rebels, but the insincerity of the rebels in advancing the peace process was clearly evident by their continued atrocities. He called on the Council to put pressure on the rebels to be serious about talking peace.⁶¹

The representative of the United Kingdom maintained that for ordinary people ECOMOG was the

⁵⁹ S/1999/237.

⁶⁰ S/1999/262.

⁶¹ S/PV.3986, p. 4.

sole means of protection from rebel atrocities and presented the only hope in the short term of bringing peace and security to Sierra Leone. He urged the need for continued international financial and logistical support for ECOMOG. He stated further that the stabilization of Sierra Leone also depended on continuing international pressure on those providing support to the rebels. In this regard, much of the Council's attention had rightly focused on support coming from Liberia and through the involvement of Liberian nationals. Referring to the draft resolution and the report, which highlighted the need to help Sierra Leone ensure its own security when ECOMOG left, he maintained that it was the only way the country could look forward to lasting peace and stability.⁶²

Several other speakers also expressed support for the draft resolution, stating that it would enable UNOMSIL to continue to play its key role in the peace process in tandem with the efforts of the ECOWAS to restore peace and security in Sierra Leone.⁶³

At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted unanimously as resolution 1231 (1999), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998 and 1220 (1999) of 12 January 1999 and the statement by its President of 7 January 1999,

Expressing its continued concern over the fragile situation in Sierra Leone,

Affirming the commitment of all States to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Sierra Leone,

Having considered the fifth report of the Secretary-General of 4 March 1999 on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, and noting the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone until 13 June 1999;

2. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to re-establish the Mission in Freetown as soon as possible and, to that end, to increase the current number of military observers and human rights personnel as referred to in paragraphs 46 and

54 of his report and to redeploy the necessary staff to support the relocation to Freetown, subject to strict attention to the security situation there;

3. *Condemns* the atrocities perpetrated by the rebels on the civilian population of Sierra Leone, including, in particular, those committed against women and children, deplors all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which have occurred in Sierra Leone during the recent escalation of violence as referred to in paragraphs 21 to 28 of the report of the Secretary-General, including the recruitment of children as soldiers, and urges the appropriate authorities to investigate all allegations of such violations with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice;

4. *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone fully to respect human rights and international humanitarian law and the neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian workers, and to ensure full and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance to affected populations;

5. *Expresses its grave concern* at continued reports that support is being afforded to the rebels in Sierra Leone, including through the supply of arms and mercenaries, in particular from the territory of Liberia;

6. *Acknowledges* the letter dated 23 February 1999 from the President of Liberia to the Secretary-General and the statement by the Government of Liberia of 19 February 1999 on the action it is taking to curtail the involvement of Liberian nationals in the fighting in Sierra Leone, including measures to encourage the return of Liberian fighters and directives to the Liberian national security agencies to ensure that no cross-border movement of arms takes place and that there is no trans-shipment of arms and ammunition through Liberian territory, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to consider, in coordination with the countries of the Mano River Union and other States members of the Economic Community of West African States, the practicability and effectiveness of the deployment of United Nations monitors along with forces of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States at the Liberia/Sierra Leone border;

7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States to comply strictly with the provisions of the embargo on the sale or supply of arms and related materiel imposed by its resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998;

8. *Expresses its intention* to keep the issue of external support to the rebels in Sierra Leone under close review and to consider further steps to address this in the light of developments on the ground;

9. *Expresses its support* for all efforts, in particular by States members of the Economic Community of West African States, aimed at peacefully resolving the conflict and restoring lasting peace and stability to Sierra Leone, encourages the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for Sierra Leone, to facilitate dialogue to these ends, welcomes the statement by the President of Sierra Leone of 7 February 1999 expressing the readiness of his Government to continue its

⁶² Ibid., pp. 4-5.

⁶³ S/PV.3986, p. 6 (Netherlands); p. 5 (Canada); p. 6 (Argentina); p. 7 (Malaysia); p. 8 (Namibia); p. 9 (Slovenia); pp. 9-10 (Gabon); p. 11 (Gambia); pp. 11-12 (the United States); and p. 13 (China).

efforts for dialogue with the rebels, and calls upon all parties involved, especially the rebels, to participate seriously in those efforts;

10. *Commends* the efforts of the Monitoring Group towards the restoration of peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone, and calls upon all Member States to provide the Monitoring Group with financial and logistical support and to consider the provision of prompt bilateral assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone in the creation of a new Sierra Leonean army to defend the country;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council closely informed on the situation in Sierra Leone and, in this regard, to submit an additional report to the Council with recommendations on the future deployment of the Mission and on the implementation of its mandate by 5 June 1999;

12. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 15 May 1999 (4005th meeting):
statement by the President**

At the 4005th meeting of the Security Council, held on 15 May 1999, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the President (Gabon), with the consent of the Council invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:⁶⁴

The Security Council stresses that an overall political settlement and national reconciliation are essential to achieving the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sierra Leone. In this context, it welcomes the recent holding of internal talks by a rebel delegation in Lomé, and urges the Government of Sierra Leone and rebel representatives to ensure that there are no further obstacles to a start of direct talks without delay.

The Council calls upon all concerned to remain committed to the process of negotiation and to demonstrate flexibility in their approach to the process. In this context, the Council underlines its strong support for the mediation efforts of the United Nations within the Lomé process, in particular the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to facilitate dialogue, and for the key role being played by the President of Togo.

The Council commends, once again, the continued efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone and the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States towards the restoration of peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone, and

calls for sustained support for the Monitoring Group from the international community.

The Council condemns the recent killings, atrocities, destruction of property and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated on civilians by the rebels in recent attacks, in particular at Masiaka and Port Loko. It calls upon the rebels to cease such actions immediately and urges the rebel leadership to release all hostages and abductees without delay.

The Council urges both parties to commit themselves to a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Lomé talks, to ensure that this is fully respected on the ground and to work constructively and in good faith for a ceasefire agreement. It calls upon both sides to refrain from any hostile or aggressive act which could undermine the talks process.

The Council welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to increase, as security conditions permit, the presence on the ground of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone within currently authorized levels, in anticipation of a cessation of hostilities. The Council also welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to send an assessment team to Sierra Leone to examine how an expanded Mission with a revised mandate and concept of operations might contribute to the implementation of a ceasefire and peace agreement in the event of a successful outcome to the negotiations between the Government of Sierra Leone and the rebels, and expresses its readiness to consider recommendations from the Secretary-General to that end.

The Council stresses, however, that it will be prepared to consider deploying monitors throughout Sierra Leone only when a credible ceasefire is in place and is being respected by all sides and there is a commitment by all parties to a framework peace agreement.

The Council underlines the importance, in the context of a lasting solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone, of a plan for the internationally supervised disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, including child soldiers. It also draws attention to the need for the secure and timely disposal of collected arms, in accordance with any peace agreement reached.

The Council reaffirms the obligation of all States to comply strictly with the provisions of the embargo on the sale or supply of arms and related materiel imposed by its resolution 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998.

The Council reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone and urges all parties, in particular the rebel leadership, to guarantee safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all those in need.

The Council reiterates that a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone remains the responsibility of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, but again emphasizes the strong commitment of the international community to support a sustainable peace settlement.

⁶⁴ S/PRST/1999/13.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

**Decision of 11 June 1999 (4012th meeting),
resolution 1245 (1999)**

On 4 June 1999, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1231 (1999), the Secretary-General submitted to the Council his sixth report on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.⁶⁵ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that, despite the continued unpredictability of the conflict situation in Sierra Leone, he was encouraged by the significant progress that had been made in pursuit of a dialogue between the government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). He maintained, however, that the political developments, including the signing of a ceasefire agreement and the start of the dialogue, had significant implications for the work of UNOMSIL. It was critical that the Mission, under the leadership of his Special Representative, should remain in a position to render effective assistance to the peace process in Sierra Leone. He therefore recommended the extension of the Mission's mandate for a period of six months, until 13 December 1999.

At its 4012th meeting held on 11 June 1999, the Security Council, in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, included the Secretary-General's report in its agenda.⁶⁶

At the same meeting, the President (Gambia), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

Also at the same meeting, the President drew attention to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.⁶⁵ The draft resolution was then put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1245 (1999), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, 1220 (1999) of 12 January 1999 and 1231 (1999) of 11 March 1999 and the statements by its President of 7 January and 15 May 1999,

Acknowledging the cooperation provided by the Economic Community of West African States and its Monitoring Group,

⁶⁵ S/1999/645.

⁶⁶ S/1999/664.

Expressing its continued concern over the fragile situation in Sierra Leone,

Affirming the commitment of all States to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Sierra Leone,

Having considered the sixth report of the Secretary-General of 4 June 1999 on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, and noting the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone until 13 December 1999;

2. *Stresses* that an overall political settlement and national reconciliation are essential to achieving a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sierra Leone, and welcomes the holding of talks in Lomé between the Government of Sierra Leone and rebel representatives;

3. *Calls upon* all concerned to remain committed to the process of negotiation and to demonstrate flexibility in their approach to the process, underlines its strong support for all those involved in the mediation efforts of the United Nations within the Lomé process, in particular the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in his work to facilitate dialogue, and for the key role being played by the President of Togo as current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, and emphasizes the strong commitment of the international community to support a sustainable peace settlement;

4. *Takes note* of the intention of the Secretary-General, as expressed in paragraphs 52 to 57 of his report, to revert to the Council with recommendations on an expanded Mission presence in Sierra Leone with a revised mandate and concept of operations in the event of a successful outcome to the negotiations between the Government of Sierra Leone and rebel representatives in Lomé, and underlines the fact that further eventual deployment of the Mission should be considered, taking into account security conditions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council closely informed on the situation in Sierra Leone;

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 20 August 1999 (4035th meeting):
resolution 1260 (1999)**

On 30 July 1999, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council his seventh report on the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.⁶⁷ In his report, the Secretary-General observed that the signing of the Lomé Peace Agreement between

⁶⁷ S/1999/836 and Add.1.

the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front was a great step forward for Sierra Leone, and he congratulated both sides for showing the flexibility that had made the agreement possible. The Secretary-General also credited the international community, in particular ECOWAS, for their leadership in bringing both sides together and facilitating the conclusion of the agreement. He cautioned, however, that the challenges ahead were daunting. Among those were the disarmament and demobilization of combatants, their reintegration into society, the restoration of State authorities and the necessity to address the humanitarian needs. He stressed that strict compliance with the terms of the agreement by both sides was indispensable and that the international community and the United Nations had an important responsibility to assist Sierra Leone and to ensure that momentum was maintained in the process, especially in the critical phase immediately after the signing of the peace agreement. The Secretary-General therefore recommended that the Security Council approve, as an immediate first step, the provisional expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.

At the 4035th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 August 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the Secretary-General's report in its agenda. At the same meeting, the President (Namibia) then invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.⁶⁸

The representative of Sierra Leone informed the Council that after lengthy and often painful discussions in Lomé with the Revolutionary United Front, the Government of Sierra Leone had signed a comprehensive Peace Agreement with RUF on 7 July 1999. He expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Security Council for recognizing and commending, in the draft resolution before it, the courageous efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to achieve peace. He maintained that the security and safety of the people of

Sierra Leone were vital and that the Peace Agreement signed in Lomé would remain fragile until the disarming of the combatants was successful. With regard to the ongoing consultations on the revised mandates of ECOMOG and UNOMSIL, he stated that there was a need to maintain the critical presence of ECOMOG in the country, which had executed a similar disarmament process in Liberia, which was familiar with the terrain as well as the operational tactics of the combatants in Sierra Leone, and which had performed the equally important job of retrieving hidden weapons. The Government of Sierra Leone therefore wholeheartedly welcomed the various provisions in the draft resolution concerning the need for international assistance in support of ECOMOG, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, humanitarian relief and long-term reconstruction, economic and social recovery and development.⁶⁹

The representative of the United Kingdom, while paying tribute to the Government of Sierra Leone and all those who had striven to bring about peace, particularly the role played by ECOMOG, maintained that Sierra Leone needed a coordinated and sustained effort by the international community to secure lasting peace. The United Kingdom viewed the draft resolution as a sign of the United Nations determination to support the implementation of the Lomé Agreement. Although the Lomé Agreement was not perfect, as it included a blanket amnesty for those who had committed atrocities, it was one of the hard choices that the Government of Sierra Leone had to make. Welcoming the steps that the Government of Sierra Leone had already taken, he stressed the need to immediately start the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. He urged the Council to establish a full United Nations peacekeeping operation to assist in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and to help create a climate of confidence and he hoped that the United Nations and ECOMOG would soon agree on their respective areas of responsibility under the new peacekeeping regime.⁷⁰

The representative of the United States maintained that his country remained steadfast in its support for the Lomé Agreement and was ready to assist in its implementation. It also remained

⁶⁸ S/1999/874.

⁶⁹ S/PV.4035 and Corr.1, pp. 2-3.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

committed to supporting the efforts of the Military Observer Group of ECOWAS (ECOMOG) in implementing the Lomé Agreement. Nevertheless, while the United States fully supported the Lomé Agreement, it was concerned by the Agreement's provisions of amnesty and was therefore eager to see the early establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as called for by the Agreement. The United States also remained open to the possible establishment of an objective international fact-finding mission to document evidence of atrocities and provide information to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a basis for its work. The United States also supported the deployment of additional United Nations military observers, medical personnel and other support staff to help implement the Lomé Agreement in Sierra Leone.⁷¹

Several other speakers also stressed the progress made by the Government of Sierra Leone and RUF towards the full implementation of the Peace Agreement, and commended the tireless efforts of ECOWAS and ECOMOG in helping restore peace and stability in the country. All of them supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to authorize a provisional increase in the number of UNOMSIL military observers. All speakers reiterated that the international community and the United Nations had an important responsibility to assist Sierra Leone and to ensure that momentum was maintained in the peace process. Some speakers stated that the peace in Sierra Leone was still fragile and therefore it was absolutely essential for the parties to do everything to consolidate the gains made. This also applied primarily to the representatives of the belligerent forces in Sierra Leone to abide by the Peace Agreement. The speakers reiterated that a great deal also depended on neighbouring countries and regional organizations and on the atmosphere in which peacebuilding in Sierra Leone would take place.⁷²

At the same meeting, the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1260 (1999), which reads:

⁷¹ Ibid., p. 14.

⁷² Ibid., p. 5 (Russian Federation); pp. 5-6 (Argentina); pp. 6-7 (China); p. 7 (Malaysia); p. 8 (Gabon); p. 9 (France); pp. 9-10 (Gambia); p. 11 (Canada); pp. 11-12 (Bahrain); p. 12 (Slovenia); p. 13 (Netherlands); and p. 14 (Namibia).

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998, 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, 1231 (1999) of 11 March 1999 and other relevant resolutions as well as the statement by its President of 15 May 1999,

Recalling also that in accordance with its resolution 1245 (1999) of 11 June 1999 the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone extends until 13 December 1999,

Affirming the commitment of all States to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Sierra Leone,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 30 July 1999,

1. *Welcomes* the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone in Lomé on 7 July 1999, and commends the President of Togo, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Economic Community of West African States and all those involved in facilitating the negotiations in Lomé on their contribution to this achievement;

2. *Commends* the Government of Sierra Leone for its courageous efforts to achieve peace, including through legislative and other measures already taken towards implementation of the Peace Agreement, commends also the leadership of the Revolutionary United Front for taking this decisive step towards peace, and calls upon them both to ensure that the provisions of the Agreement are fully implemented;

3. *Commends also* the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States on the outstanding contribution it has made to the restoration of security and stability in Sierra Leone, the protection of civilians and the promotion of a peaceful settlement of the conflict, and urges all States to continue to provide technical, logistical and financial support to the Monitoring Group to help it to maintain its critical presence and continue to perform its role in Sierra Leone, including through the United Nations trust fund established to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone;

4. *Authorizes* the provisional expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone to up to 210 military observers along with the necessary equipment and administrative and medical support to perform the tasks set out in paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General, and decides that these additional military observers shall be deployed as security conditions permit and shall operate for the time being under security provided by the Monitoring Group as indicated in paragraph 39 of the report;

5. *Underscores* the importance of the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, notes that the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front have agreed in the Peace Agreement to provide guarantees in this regard, and urges all parties in

Sierra Leone to respect fully the status of United Nations and associated personnel;

6. *Authorizes* the strengthening of the political, civil affairs, information, human rights and child protection elements of the Mission as set out in paragraphs 40 to 51 of the report of the Secretary-General, including through the appointment of a deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the expansion of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

7. *Encourages* the ongoing consultations among the parties concerned on future peacekeeping arrangements in Sierra Leone, including the respective tasks, strength and mandates of the Monitoring Group and the United Nations, and welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to revert to the Council with comprehensive proposals concerning a new mandate and concept of operations for the Mission;

8. *Calls upon* the Revolutionary United Front and all other armed groups in Sierra Leone to begin immediately to disband and give up their arms, in accordance with the provisions of the Peace Agreement, and to participate fully in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in Sierra Leone;

9. *Urges* all States and international organizations to provide resources to help to ensure the successful conduct of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, in particular through the trust fund established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for this purpose;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to promote peace and national reconciliation and to foster accountability and respect for human rights in Sierra Leone, and in this context takes note of the views expressed in paragraph 54 of the report of the Secretary-General, welcomes the provisions in the Peace Agreement on the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone, and calls upon the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front to ensure that these Commissions are established promptly within the time-frame provided for in the Peace Agreement;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Human Rights Manifesto by the parties concerned in Sierra Leone, and stresses the need for international assistance to address the human rights issues in Sierra Leone as a step towards accountability in the country, as referred to in paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General;

12. *Stresses* the need for the international community and the Government of Sierra Leone to design and implement programmes to address the special needs of war victims, in particular those who have suffered maiming mutilation, and, in this regard, welcomes the commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone as set out in article XXIX of the Peace Agreement to establish a special fund for this purpose;

13. *Stresses* the urgent and substantial need for humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone, in

particular in the large proportion of the country hitherto inaccessible to relief agencies, and urges all States and international organizations to provide such assistance as a priority, in response to the revised consolidated inter-agency appeal issued in July 1999;

14. *Calls upon* all parties to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Sierra Leone, to guarantee the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law;

15. *Stresses* the need for sustained and generous assistance for the longer term tasks of reconstruction, economic and social recovery and development in Sierra Leone, and urges all States and international organizations to participate in and contribute actively to these efforts;

16. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone to work with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and other international agencies to give particular attention to the long-term rehabilitation of child combatants in Sierra Leone, and encourages those involved also to address the special needs of all children affected by the conflict in Sierra Leone, including through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and through support to child victims of mutilation, sexual exploitation and abduction, to the rehabilitation of health and education services, and to the recovery of traumatized children and the protection of unaccompanied children;

17. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretary-General, as indicated in paragraph 44 of his report, that the United Nations should develop a strategic framework approach for Sierra Leone in consultation with national and international partners;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council closely informed on the situation in Sierra Leone and to submit an additional report to the Council as soon as possible, including recommendations for the mandate and structure of the enhanced United Nations peacekeeping presence that may be required in the country;

19. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Decision of 22 October 1999 (4054th meeting):
resolution 1270 (1999)**

On 23 September 1999, pursuant to the Security Council's request for recommendations for the mandate and structure of an enhanced United Nations peacekeeping presence that might be required in the country, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council his eighth report on the United Nations

Observer Mission in Sierra Leone.⁷³ In that report, he observed that although with the signing of the Lomé Peace Agreement, Sierra Leone had been able to repair some of the damage caused by the long conflict and get back on the road to peace and prosperity, it was in urgent need of security. Without security it would not be possible to carry out the programme of disarming and demobilizing approximately 45,000 ex-combatants, many of them children, and thus removing a threat to the stability of the State. He underscored that the United Nations could play its part in bolstering security in Sierra Leone by the swift deployment of a robust peacekeeping force. Such a force, which was called for by the Lomé Peace Agreement, would supplement the commendable efforts made over the past two and a half years by ECOMOG and would incorporate a substantial number of troops made available by ECOWAS countries. He further recommended that the Council authorize the deployment of the United Nations force, which, together with UNOMSIL military observers and civilian components, would be known as the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). Since the international community would not be able to maintain a major military presence in Sierra Leone indefinitely, he urged that the Sierra Leone Government expedite the establishment and training of its national police and armed forces, without which it would not be possible to achieve long-term stability, national reconciliation and the reconstruction of the country.

At the same meeting, the President (Russian Federation), with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Nigeria and Sierra Leone, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President also extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict.

At the 4054th meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 October 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Council included the Secretary-General's report in its agenda.

⁷³ S/1999/1003.

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to a draft resolution that had been prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.⁷⁴

At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict stated that in view of what he had witnessed on the ground in Sierra Leone and the discussions he had held with national leaders, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, he proposed a special 15-point agenda for action for the children of Sierra Leone, which puts forward several measures and initiatives. Among the principal elements was an urgent need to establish a national commission for children to ensure that their protection and welfare would be the central concern in the aftermath of the war. He advocated incorporating child protection into the mandate and operations of UNAMSIL and stressed that the demobilization and integration of children should be given special attention. He further stated that since a number of cross-border issues, including small arms flow, refugee movements, cross-border recruitment of child soldiers, and family tracing and reunification, all had an impact on the protection and rights of children within Sierra Leone, a neighbourhood initiative for the subregion comprising Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, had been proposed.⁷⁵

The representative of Sierra Leone stated that the adoption of the draft resolution before the Council approving the establishment and deployment of a full-fledged United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone, while bringing some relief to its people, would also provide an additional and more durable security blanket for all Sierra Leoneans. Furthermore, while appreciating the role UNOMSIL had played in the peace process, he noted that it had not been equipped to deal with certain situations, before and after the Lomé Peace Agreement had been signed between his country's Government and the Revolutionary United Front. His delegation wished to highlight paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, according to which the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, would authorize the new United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, in the discharge of its

⁷⁴ S/1999/1069.

⁷⁵ S/PV.4054, pp. 3-4.

mandate, to take the necessary action to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel and to afford protection to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence. He maintained that his delegation regarded the interpretation of this paragraph as an insurance policy for both international peacekeepers and innocent civilians. In connection with the second aspect of the draft resolution, he stated that it underscored the efficacy of practical cooperation between the United Nations and African regional or subregional organizations in peacekeeping activities. Maintaining that the continued presence of ECOMOG in Sierra Leone was crucial for the successful implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone, he appealed to the Council to do everything in its power to ensure that ECOMOG remained in Sierra Leone for the time being.⁷⁶

The representative of Nigeria stated that the draft resolution establishing UNAMSIL would be a landmark development in the search for a durable peace in Sierra Leone that would have an impact on the United Nations, ECOWAS, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. He noted that for the United Nations the draft resolution was an opportunity to fulfil its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. It also represented a concrete attempt to assist the West African subregion in resolving a local conflict. For Nigeria, he said, the creation of UNAMSIL not only vindicated its conviction that the Sierra Leone crisis was a threat to international peace and security but also relieved them of a disproportionate burden in human and material resources. He underlined the Nigerian efforts in Liberia and later, in Sierra Leone, bore testimony to their devotion to the cherished principles of good neighbourliness and international responsibility, in the conviction that no meaningful development could take place in the absence of peace and stability, and he stressed that Nigeria stood ready to play its part in UNAMSIL to facilitate the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement. Expressing Nigeria's support and commending UNAMSIL as representing a rare but desirable form of cooperation between the United Nations and a subregional organization in fulfilment of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, his delegation hoped that the United Nations would

continue to employ a similar approach with other regional and subregional organizations in the pursuit of international peace and security.⁷⁷

The representative of the United Kingdom maintained that the draft resolution which the Council was about to adopt was an important and significant milestone on the long and challenging road to lasting peace in Sierra Leone. With the establishment of UNAMSIL, the United Nations would be making a major contribution to ensuring that the Lomé Peace Agreement could succeed. He stated that the situation in Sierra Leone was a test case and the establishment of UNAMSIL would provide a clear opportunity for the Security Council and the United Nations membership generally to demonstrate that their commitment to conflict resolution applied as much to Africa as to other trouble spots around the world. He stressed further that the success of UNAMSIL would depend significantly on joint deployment and close cooperation with ECOMOG. The readiness of ECOWAS to work in tandem with the United Nations in Sierra Leone was an important example for cooperation with regional peacekeeping efforts around the world. In conclusion, he stated that the United Kingdom was also working with the Government of Sierra Leone to restructure and train a new professional and democratically accountable Sierra Leone army and police force to protect the people of Sierra Leone and encourage long-term stability.⁷⁸

The representative of the United States stated that the resolution of the conflict in Sierra Leone was a high priority for his Government. The representative stated that his Government recognized the enormous contributions made by the Monitoring Group's West African peacekeepers, led by Nigeria and commended the readiness of ECOMOG to remain in the field and to proceed with disarmament and demobilization. Furthermore, his delegation also remained committed to justice and accountability and establishing a truth and reconciliation commission and a human rights commission as called for in the Lomé Peace Agreement. His delegation also supported an international fact-finding mission to assist the work

⁷⁷ Ibid., pp. 7-8.

⁷⁸ Ibid., pp. 8-9.

⁷⁶ Ibid., pp. 5-6.

and proceedings of the truth and reconciliation and human rights commissions.⁷⁹

The representative of Malaysia maintained that, given the fragile, even volatile, political and security situation in Sierra Leone, only a peacekeeping force of credible strength, well equipped and well mandated would be able successfully to carry out the tasks assigned to it, and for that reason his delegation had underlined the need for the establishment of UNAMSIL under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, consistent with the “robust rules of engagement” that the Secretary-General had proposed for UNAMSIL in paragraph 43 of his report of 23 September 1999. The hostage-taking incident involving personnel of ECOWAS, ECOMOG and UNAMSIL in August 1999 had served to highlight this concern. His delegation could support the language in the draft resolution with respect to Chapter VII. He stated that since the success of UNAMSIL could well have a bearing on future peacekeeping missions that the United Nations was planning in respect to other conflict areas in Africa, it was important for UNAMSIL to be given the tools to ensure that it had a fair chance of carrying out its mission successfully. His delegation welcomed the continued presence of ECOMOG in Sierra Leone to continue to provide security in accordance with its mandate to ensure the implementation of the Peace Agreement.⁸⁰

The representative of France stated that, as the Council adopted a draft resolution relating to UNAMSIL and at the same time envisaged prolonging the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, it could conclude that those new developments were an encouraging sign for the African continent, which would take note of the extent of the sincere receptiveness of the members of the Security Council to its aspirations. France believed that when there were serious prospects of resolving conflicts, the international community and above all the Security Council needed to stand side by side with the leaders and people of Africa to facilitate a peaceful solution. It hoped that the commitment being made to Sierra Leone in the very tangible form of a United Nations peacekeeping operation could be pursued in

other regions of Africa, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁸¹

Several other speakers welcomed the draft resolution establishing UNAMSIL and stated that the Security Council in doing so was taking a decisive and necessary step in support of the Lomé Peace Agreement. They maintained that the situation in Sierra Leone remained volatile and that robust rules of engagement were indeed essential if UNAMSIL was to fulfil its mandate and protect itself and civilians under threat. They all paid tribute to ECOMOG for its continued efforts towards peace in Sierra Leone and also supported the continued close cooperation between ECOMOG and UNAMSIL.⁸²

The representative of Argentina referred in particular to paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, which authorized UNAMSIL to act under Chapter VII of the Charter towards two well-defined objectives: to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel and to afford protection to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence. He stated that the safety and security of personnel in the field of operations had to be an essential condition of all peacekeeping missions. He also stated that since there could be no doubt that the personnel of UNAMSIL would be carrying out their duties in a hazardous environment, Argentina deemed it appropriate that the draft resolution reinforce the rules of engagement of UNAMSIL with the additional authority of Chapter VII. Similarly, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel provided the legal mechanisms required for the trial and punishment of those committing crimes against United Nations personnel and in that regard his delegation ventured once again to appeal to those States that had not yet done so to ratify that Convention. Argentina believed that the protection of civilians under Chapter VII was a pertinent development in the context of the mandate of a peacekeeping operation. The draft resolution before them was significant in that it introduced a new fundamental, political, legal and moral dimension which had a bearing on the credibility of the Security Council and showed that the Council had learned from its own experience and that it would not remain indifferent to indiscriminate attacks against the civilian

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 9-10.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, p.12.

⁸² *Ibid.*, p. 13 (Netherlands); p. 14 (China); p. 15 (Brazil); pp. 16-17 (Canada); and p. 18 (Bahrain).

population. Realistically the objective to be fulfilled needed to be consonant with the means provided, and for that reason Argentina agreed with the limits that operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution set on the actions of UNAMSIL. It established an objective limit, the competence the Council wished to give UNAMSIL; a geographic limit, the Mission's area of deployment; and a functional limit, so that it did not overlap the specific security responsibilities entrusted to ECOMOG pursuant to the mandate adopted by ECOWAS on 25 August 1999.⁸³

At the same meeting the draft resolution was put to the vote and adopted unanimously as resolution 1270 (1999), which reads:

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998, 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, 1231 (1999) of 11 March 1999 and 1260 (1999) of 20 August 1999 and other relevant resolutions, and the statement by its President of 15 May 1999,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General of 8 September 1999 and its resolution 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Affirming the commitment of all States to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Sierra Leone,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 23 September 1999,

Determining that the situation in Sierra Leone continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the important steps taken by the Government of Sierra Leone, the leadership of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone, the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone towards implementation of the Peace Agreement since its signing in Lomé on 7 July 1999, and recognizes the important role of the Joint Implementation Committee established by the Peace Agreement under the chairmanship of the President of Togo;

2. *Calls upon* the parties to fulfil all their commitments under the Peace Agreement to facilitate the restoration of peace, stability, national reconciliation and development in Sierra Leone;

3. *Takes note* of the preparations made for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of

ex-combatants, including child soldiers, by the Government of Sierra Leone through the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, and urges all concerned to make every effort to ensure that all designated centres begin to function as soon as possible;

4. *Calls upon* the Revolutionary United Front, the Civil Defence Force, former Sierra Leone Armed Forces/Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and all other armed groups in Sierra Leone to begin immediately to disband and give up their arms in accordance with the provisions of the Peace Agreement, and to participate fully in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

5. *Welcomes* the return to Freetown of the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, and calls upon them to engage fully and responsibly in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and to direct the participation of all rebel groups in the disarmament and demobilization process without delay;

6. *Deplores* the recent taking of hostages, including personnel of the Observer Mission and the Monitoring Group, by rebel groups, and calls upon those responsible to put an end to such practices immediately and to address their concerns about the terms of the Peace Agreement peacefully, through dialogue with the parties concerned;

7. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the indispensable role Monitoring Group forces continue to play in the maintenance of security and stability in Sierra Leone and the protection of the people of Sierra Leone, and approves the new mandate for the Monitoring Group, adopted by the Economic Community of West African States on 25 August 1999;

8. *Decides* to establish the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone with immediate effect for an initial period of six months and with the following mandate:

(a) To cooperate with the Government of Sierra Leone and the other parties to the Peace Agreement in the implementation of the Agreement;

(b) To assist the Government of Sierra Leone in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan;

(c) To that end, to establish a presence at key locations throughout the territory of Sierra Leone, including at disarmament/reception centres and demobilization centres;

(d) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel;

(e) To monitor adherence to the ceasefire in accordance with the ceasefire agreement of 18 May 1999 through the structures provided for therein;

(f) To encourage the parties to create confidence-building mechanisms and support their functioning;

(g) To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

⁸³ *Ibid.*, pp. 15-16.

(h) To support the operations of United Nations civilian officials, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his staff, human rights officers and civil affairs officers;

(i) To provide support, as requested, to the elections, which are to be held in accordance with the present constitution of Sierra Leone;

9. *Also decides* that the military component of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone shall comprise a maximum of 6,000 military personnel, including 260 military observers, subject to periodic review in the light of conditions on the ground and the progress made in the peace process, in particular in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, and takes note of paragraph 43 of the report of the Secretary-General of 23 September 1999;

10. *Further decides* that the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone shall take over the substantive civilian and military components and functions of the Observer Mission as well as its assets, and to that end decides that the mandate of the Observer Mission shall terminate immediately on the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone;

11. *Commends* the readiness of the Monitoring Group to continue to provide security for the areas where it is currently located, in particular around Freetown and Lungi, to provide protection for the Government of Sierra Leone, to conduct other operations in accordance with its mandate to ensure the implementation of the Peace Agreement, and to initiate and proceed with disarmament and demobilization in conjunction and full coordination with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone;

12. *Stresses* the need for close cooperation and coordination between the Monitoring Group and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in the performance of their respective tasks, and welcomes the intended establishment of joint operations centres at headquarters and, if necessary, also at subordinate levels in the field;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, notes that the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front have agreed in the Peace Agreement to provide guarantees in this regard, and calls upon all parties in Sierra Leone to respect fully the status of United Nations and associated personnel;

14. *Decides*, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, that in the discharge of its mandate the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone may take the necessary action to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel and, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, to afford protection to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, taking into account the responsibilities of the Government of Sierra Leone and the Monitoring Group;

15. *Underlines* the importance of including in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone personnel with

appropriate training in international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including child and gender-related provisions, negotiation and communication skills, cultural awareness and civilian-military coordination;

16. *Requests* the Government of Sierra Leone to conclude a status-of-forces agreement with the Secretary-General within thirty days of the adoption of the present resolution, and recalls that, pending the conclusion of such an agreement, the model status-of-forces agreement dated 9 October 1990 should apply provisionally;

17. *Stresses* the urgent need to promote peace and national reconciliation and to foster accountability and respect for human rights in Sierra Leone, underlines in this context the key role of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Human Rights Commission and the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace established under the Peace Agreement, and urges the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure the prompt establishment and effective functioning of these bodies with the full participation of all parties and drawing on the relevant experience and support of Member States, specialized bodies, other multilateral organizations and civil society;

18. *Emphasizes* the fact that the plight of children is among the most pressing challenges facing Sierra Leone, welcomes the continued commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone to work with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and other international agencies to give particular attention to the long-term rehabilitation of child combatants in Sierra Leone, and reiterates its encouragement of those involved to address the special needs of all children affected by the conflict;

19. *Urges* all parties concerned to ensure that refugees and internally displaced persons are protected and are enabled to return voluntarily and in safety to their homes, and encourages States and international organizations to provide urgent assistance to that end;

20. *Stresses* the urgent need for substantial additional resources to finance the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and calls upon all States, international and other organizations to contribute generously to the multi-donor trust fund established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for that purpose;

21. *Stresses also* the continued need for urgent and substantial humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone, as well as for sustained and generous assistance for the longer term tasks of peace-building, reconstruction, economic and social recovery and development in Sierra Leone, and urges all States and international and other organizations to provide such assistance as a priority;

22. *Calls upon* all parties to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Sierra Leone, to guarantee the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law;

23. *Urges* the Government of Sierra Leone to expedite the formation of professional and accountable national police and armed forces, including through their restructuring and training, without which it will not be possible to achieve long-term stability, national reconciliation and the reconstruction of the country, and underlines the importance of support and assistance from the international community in this regard;

24. *Welcomes* the continued work by the United Nations on the development of the strategic framework for Sierra Leone aimed at enhancing effective collaboration and coordination within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and its national and international partners in Sierra Leone;

25. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to keep the situation in Sierra Leone under close review and to revert to the Council with additional proposals if required;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every forty-five days to provide updates on the status of the peace process, on security conditions on the ground and on the continued level of deployment of Monitoring Group personnel, so that troop levels and the tasks to be performed can be evaluated as outlined in paragraphs 49 and 50 of the report of the Secretary-General of 23 September 1999;

27. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Deliberations of 10 December 1999 (4078th meeting)

On 6 December 1999, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999), the Secretary-General submitted his first report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.⁸⁴ In his report the Secretary-General observed that some progress had been made in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement with the return of the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council leadership to Sierra Leone, the establishment of the Government of National Unity, the provisional registration of RUF as a political party and an increase of the number of ex-combatants registering for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. However, the serious human rights abuses, ceasefire violations, including fighting between RUF and AFRC, extensive movement of troops and weapons by the former and the targeting of personnel gave cause for very serious concern. Commending ECOMOG for its continued efforts in support of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General emphasized the urgent need to strengthen and accelerate the process of

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. He also welcomed the progress made by the Government of Sierra Leone and the invaluable contributions of the donor community, especially the Government of the United Kingdom and the World Bank, in establishing the necessary demobilization facilities.

At its 4078th meeting held on 10 December 1999 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the report of the Secretary-General in its agenda.

At the same meeting, the President (United Kingdom), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Sierra Leone, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The Council also extended an invitation, under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

The representative of France emphasized the importance and the urgency of providing humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leone. He, however, also addressed a few questions to the representative of the Secretariat. He observed that UNAMSIL was deployed largely in the Southern part of the country, which also covered positions held by ECOMOG. His first question concerned the Secretariat's intentions as to the deployment in the northern part of the country and whether security guarantees for UNAMSIL troops had already been negotiated with the rebel movements active in those regions. Secondly, he asked how the Secretariat assessed the nature of the doubts with regard to the RUF commitment to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Finally, he asked whether the plans concerning the organization of the work of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace presented by the Chairman of the Commission truly reflected the wishes of all parties in Sierra Leone, and if those plans had also been discussed with the United Nations.⁸⁵

The representative of the United States expressed pleasure that things were under way in Sierra Leone, for the role of the United Nations was crucial to the success of the peace process. He underlined that some neighbours in Sierra Leone had direct responsibility in trying to push things forward, to move swiftly to

⁸⁴ S/1999/1223.

⁸⁵ S/PV.4078, pp. 8-9.

disarm and demobilize as quickly as possible, and that the annual ECOWAS summit provided an opportunity for the leaders in the region to underscore that message. He stressed that it was important for all States in the region to support reintegration and to provide humanitarian development assistance.⁸⁶

The representative of the United Kingdom emphasized that while his delegation welcomed the continuing contribution of Nigeria, ECOMOG and the arrival of the Kenyan and Indian peacekeepers under the new Force Commander, it was crucial that the force be deployed to full strength as soon as possible and that the Council ensure that the Force Commander had the clearest possible guidance and backing from his headquarters in New York. He further expressed concern at the continuing ceasefire violations, human rights abuses and lack of humanitarian access. He underlined that the tensions between the different rebel groups and leaders lay behind much of the continuing unrest and violence and it was essential to maintain dialogue with each of them to bring them and their followers into the Lomé agreement framework. He further urged the parties and all those with influence over them to continue to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement to allow the desperately needed peacekeeping operation to fulfil its mandate.⁸⁷

Several other speakers maintained that although progress had been made in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement, they remained deeply concerned at the continuing evidence of the fragility of the peace process in Sierra Leone. They stressed that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants was essential and in this respect they commended those Governments that contributed to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Some speakers urged strict compliance with the provisions of the existing arms embargo on Sierra Leone and supported further measures such as the establishment of a monitoring and inspection mechanism to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions regime. All speakers expressed satisfaction with the deployment of UNAMSIL in support of the peace process. A number of speakers also supported the establishment of the Human Rights Commission in

Sierra Leone and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and stated that the initiative to study the nexus between the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a possible international commission of inquiry into human rights violations would be welcomed. They further stated that the amnesty envisaged in the Lomé Peace Agreement was not to be extended to cover atrocities committed subsequent to that Agreement.⁸⁸

In response to questions raised by some delegations, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated the following: with regard to the deployment in the north, which consisted of two contingents (Kenya and India), he underlined that the deployment was due in part to the desire of the organization and of the Secretariat to show clearly that the United Nations action was new and impartial and also to show their resolve that the action of the United Nations in that connection was vigorous. He also said that the deployment of those troops was taking place in a measured and well thought out manner in order to ensure security. With regard to the doubts about the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme by the Revolutionary United Front, given the fact that Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma were in Freetown and actively participating in all the negotiations, and that they had made statements, it was clear that if they had deliberately wished not to implement it, for their own safety and security, they would doubtless have preferred not to be in Freetown at that stage. With regard to the arrival of UNAMSIL troops with strong resources, in the areas that had been only under rebel control throughout the entire period, he emphasized that there was a need for dialogue and clarification so as to create conditions of confidence with regard to all the rebel leaders. Since they had been isolated for months, even years, by combat and distrust, the sudden arrival of well-equipped foreign troops would doubtless give rise to fears and questions. The Under-Secretary-General also stressed that it was necessary to show that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme included all the parties not only the rebel groups. Furthermore, he reiterated that it was important for the dialogue to

⁸⁶ Ibid., pp. 12-13.

⁸⁷ Ibid., p. 15.

⁸⁸ Ibid., pp. 5-6 (Argentina); pp. 6-7 (Gabon); pp. 7-8 (Canada); p. 9 (Gambia); pp. 6-7 (Bahrain); pp. 10-11 (Malaysia); p. 11 (Slovenia); pp. 9-10 (Namibia); pp. 12-13 (Brazil); and pp. 14-15 (China).

continue and for ECOMOG to maintain a consolidated, firm and assured presence. With regard to the question concerning discussion of the organization of the work of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace with the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General pointed out that the Commission was a national one created

under the Agreement and was not a Commission under the responsibility of the United Nations Mission. It was therefore essentially for the Sierra Leoneans themselves to organize and discuss it.⁸⁹

⁸⁹ Ibid., pp. 16-18.

9. Letter dated 9 January 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the extradition of the suspects wanted in the assassination attempt on the life of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26 June 1995

Initial proceedings

Decision of 31 January 1996 (3627th meeting): resolution 1044 (1996)

By a letter dated 9 January 1996 addressed to the President of the Security Council,¹ the representative of Ethiopia, in accordance with Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council in view of the refusal of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan to comply with repeated demands for extradition to Ethiopia of the terrorists sought for their role in the assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and the serious implications of such non-compliance. In this regard the letter also referred to the meeting held between Ethiopia and members of the Security Council on 21 December 1995. The letter also included information on the assassination attempt as well as the statements issued at the end of the 11 September and 19 December 1995 meetings of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

At the 3627th meeting of the Security Council, held on 31 January 1996 in response to the request contained in a letter dated 9 January 1996 from Ethiopia,² the Security Council included the letter in its agenda, without objection. At the same meeting, the President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Ethiopia, Pakistan and the Sudan, at

their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

At the same meeting, the Council had before it the text of a draft resolution submitted by Botswana, Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras and Indonesia.³

At the same meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council to the following letters: a letter dated 15 January 1996 from the representative of Ethiopia addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁴ concerning "false accusations" of alleged Ethiopian aggression by the Sudan; a letter dated 11 January 1996 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁵ transmitting the response of the Government of the Sudan to the allegations of the Government of Ethiopia against his country regarding the assassination attempt on the life of the Egyptian President; a letter dated 12 January 1996 from the Foreign Minister of the Sudan to the Secretary-General of OAU,⁶ concerning the assassination attempt against President Mubarak of Egypt; and a letter dated 12 January 1996 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁷ requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council to deal with the issue of Ethiopian aggression against the airspace and territory

¹ S/1996/10.

² Ibid.

³ S/1996/69.

⁴ S/1996/30.

⁵ S/1996/22.

⁶ S/1996/25.

⁷ S/1996/29.