

Liberian Diaspora Issue Call

Liberian exile groups and citizens living in Germany, France, Sweden, Britain, and the Netherlands issued the following statement from their July 25-27 Doorn meeting.

We have concluded that the following points must be urgently addressed: 1. Peace; 2. Security; 3. Development; 4. International Dimensions.

Peace: To attain peace, there must be an unconditional and immediate cease-fire and the formation of an interim government; we also demand an international stabilization force. If there is no decision reached from the ongoing peace talks in Accra, Ghana, between now and Aug. 2, 2003, we demand that the international community should form a caretaker government, which we believe would bring the indiscriminate killings and destructions on the part of the rebels and government forces to a halt.

Security: We demand immediate, unconditional and total disarmament of all factions, including the Armed Forces of Liberia, all paramilitary forces and militias. This should be followed by an immediate demobilization and decommissioning of weapons. Therefore a Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be formed. Rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants and the reinforcement of an arms embargo must be implemented.

Development: Education and training for the entire

citizenry of Liberia with special emphasis on ex-combatants and their victims.

War Economy and International Dimensions: Re-enforce sanctions on the export of the country's natural and mineral resources. Unlawful buyers and exporters of these natural resources should be prosecuted. To stop the geopolitical interplay for economic gain and control. To change the orientation of the world economy to accept our internal economic changes, as a war-ravaged country.

Liberia needs to make some economic adjustments in the first five years that may not suit certain conditions of the IMF and World Bank standards but may be in the interest of Liberia's economic revitalization.

The conference recognized that the Liberian crisis started with the military coup of April 1980, when President Tolbert, who had followed the policy of the Non-Aligned Movement, was killed by Samuel Doe, the first of the rebels who would destroy Liberia. During a Monrovia meeting of the Organization of African Union (OAU) in September 1979, demands for a new, just world economic order were voiced, influenced then by Lyndon LaRouche's 1975 proposal for an International Development Bank (IDB). This Monrovia discussion led to the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action by the OAU in April 1980. But instead of following that road, the IMF forced "structural adjustment policies" on every African government. The genocidal results of this are only too visible in Africa today. The need for the establishment of a new, just world economic order, based on the principle of peace through development, was therefore discussed as the necessary solution for Liberia's and Africa's problems.