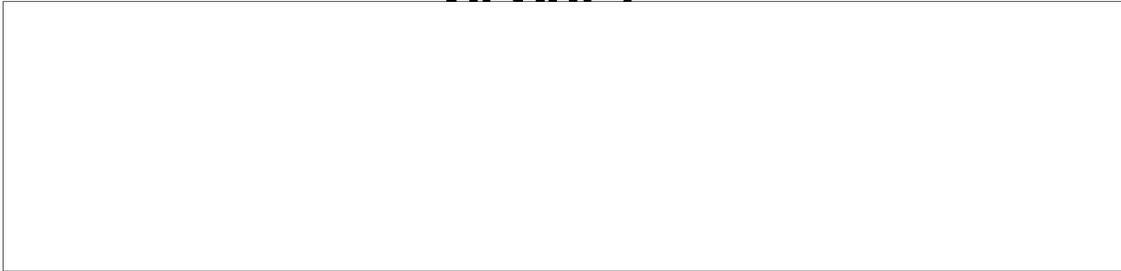


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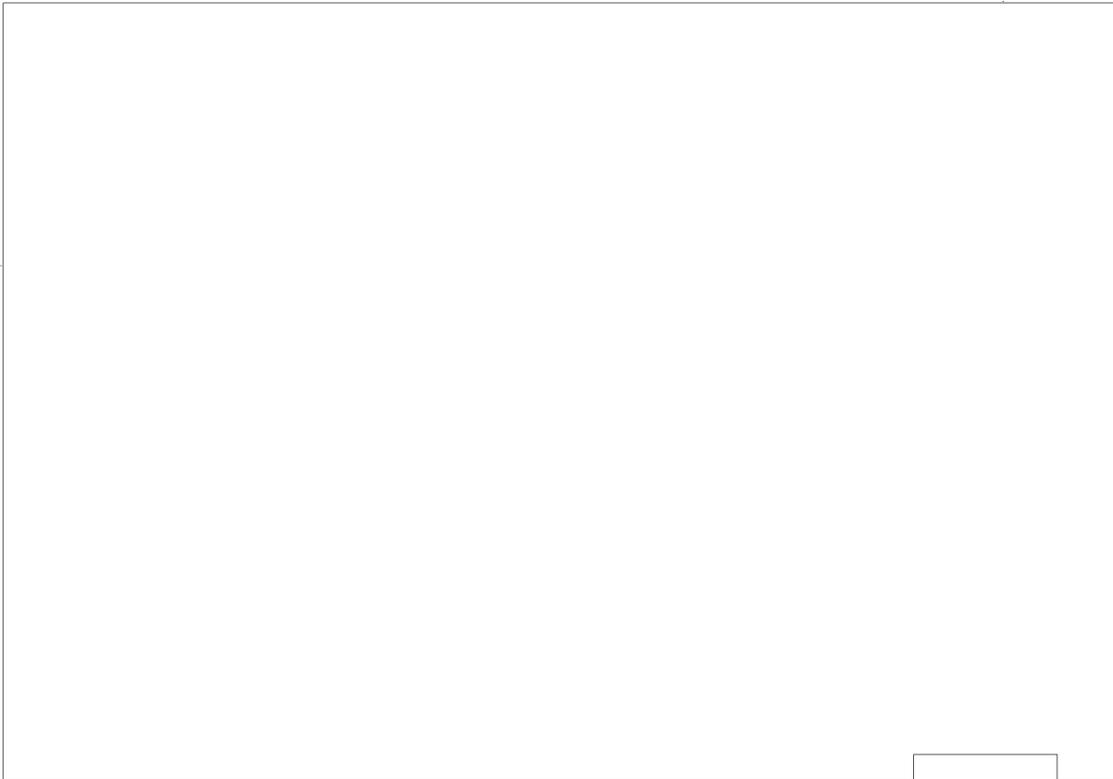
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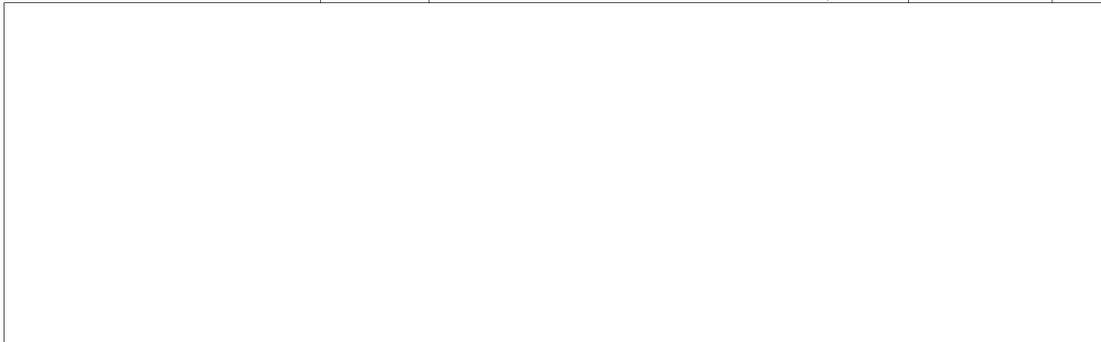
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3. LIBERIA: BUYING TIME



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3. LIBERIA: BUYING TIME [REDACTED]

PEACE TALKS ARE CONTINUING DESPITE LITTLE PROGRESS, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSES TO PREVENT A REBEL ADVANCE TOWARD MONROVIA. [REDACTED]

THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO THE TALKS IN SIERRA LEONE PROPOSED A MUTUAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL YESTERDAY AS A FIRST STEP TO ESTABLISHING A CEASE-FIRE. REBEL REPRESENTATIVES SAY THEY WILL CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL BUT CONTINUE TO STATE THAT PRESIDENT DOE'S RESIGNATION IS A PRECONDITION TO ANY REBEL TROOP WITHDRAWAL OR CEASE-FIRE. [REDACTED]

SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE CARRYING PLACARDS SAYING 'AMERICA COME TO OUR AID' AND 'STOP TRIBALISM' MARCHED THROUGH MONROVIA YESTERDAY. THEY GATHERED AT THE US EMBASSY TO READ A STATEMENT CALLING ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY--ESPECIALLY THE US--TO INTERVENE BY PROVIDING A PEACEKEEPING FORCE. PROMINENT LIBERIANS, INCLUDING OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS AND SOME OF DOE'S CLOSEST ADVISERS, CONTINUE TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO US OFFICIALS TO STEP IN AND SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM FURTHER DESTRUCTION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NO NEW MURDERS OF CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PAST DAY OR TWO SINCE THE ARMY STEPPED UP SECURITY IN MONROVIA. AMERICO-LIBERIANS AND OTHERS STILL ARE BEING HARASSED, HOWEVER, AND KRAHN SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY CONTINUE TO KILL GIO AND MANO TROOPS. [REDACTED]

MEANWHILE, THE ARMY IS TRYING TO RALLY ITS DEFENSIVE FORCES TO HALT FURTHER REBEL ADVANCES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COMMENT: BOTH SIDES ARE LIKELY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY CESSATION OF FIGHTING DURING THE PEACE TALKS TO REINFORCE THEIR POSITIONS. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE MUSTERING LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS TO DEFENSIVE POSITIONS OUTSIDE MONROVIA, THE ARMY IS LIKELY TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN SLOW THE REBEL ADVANCE ONCE IT BEGINS. GOVERNMENT PLEAS FOR THE US TO INTERVENE PROBABLY WILL MOUNT AS THE FIGHTING GETS NEARER THE CAPITAL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OUTGOING
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