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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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DIRECTOR 229250

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OUTGOING
MESSAGE

1. LIBERIA: GROWING ALARM IN CAPITAL [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1. LIBERIA: GROWING ALARM IN CAPITAL [Redacted]

RECENT REBEL PRESS CLAIMS THAT THE FINAL OFFENSIVE HAS BEGUN, DESPITE APPARENT REBEL SETBACKS AS ARMY RESISTANCE HAS STIFFENED FOR THE MOMENT, ARE FUELING PANIC IN MONROVIA. [Redacted]

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REBELS ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY THAT THEY HAD LAUNCHED ATTACKS ON ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD AND THAT A MARCH ON THE CAPITAL WAS IMMINENT. HE ALSO ASSERTED THE REBELS ALREADY HAD TAKEN THE TOWN OF KAKATA AND CONTROLLED BOTH BUCHANAN AND GBARNGA. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

OUTGOING
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STILL,
MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN THE CAPITAL HAVE BECOME
ALARMED BY THE REBEL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND BY THE PROXIMITY OF THE
RECENT FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, 2,000 LIBERIANS
GATHERED OUTSIDE THE UN BUILDING IN MONROVIA DEMANDING INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION. RUMORS ARE RAMPANT THAT ROBERTS AIRFIELD HAS BEEN
ATTACKED BY REBELS. MASSIVE LINES FORM DAILY OUTSIDE THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY AS LIBERIANS SEEK PASSPORTS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

[REDACTED]

ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT DOE STILL INTENDS TO STAY IN LIBERIA AND
FIGHT, A VARIETY OF REPORTING INDICATES THAT HE--AND MANY OF HIS
FELLOW KRAHN COHORTS AND SOLDIERS--MAY TRY TO RETURN TO THEIR TRIBAL
HOMELAND IN GRAND JIDE. DOE HAS SAID THAT, IF THE SITUATION IN
MONROVIA DETERIORATES FURTHER, HE WOULD RETURN TO HIS HOME RATHER
THAN SEEK EXILE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. CLOSE TO 1,000 KRAHN SOLDIERS
HAVE DEPLOYED TO ZWEDRII AND DOE'S HOMETOWN OF TUZOHN.

[REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE REBELS' PUBLIC OPTIMISM MAY BE KINDLED BY THE EASE
OF THEIR PAST VICTORIES AND BY A GROWING BELIEF THAT FOREIGN
BACKERS, SUCH AS IVORY COAST, WILL INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE ONCE
THE REBELS APPEAR TO BE CLOSING IN ON THE CAPITAL.

CONTINUED REBEL BRAVADO ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL HEIGHTEN TENSIONS
FURTHER IN MONROVIA. MOREOVER, RECENT ARMY RESISTANCE IS LIKELY TO
DO LITTLE MORE THAN TEMPORARILY SLOW REBEL PROGRESS.

[REDACTED]

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