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[redacted]**LIBERIA: Fighting Near Capital**

Peacekeeping forces suffered some casualties yesterday when they were drawn into a firefight between rival Liberian factions near Monrovia. Taylor's NPFL forces repulsed a ULIMO attack near the Po River bridge and pursued retreating troops until peacekeepers intervened [redacted]. The peacekeeping force has sent more vehicles and troops to the area, and tensions are high. A Senegalese artillery battery is expected to arrive in Monrovia this weekend and will strengthen defense of the capital [redacted].

**Comment:** The recent humiliation the peacekeepers suffered at Taylor's hands may explain in part their willingness to shelter ULIMO rebels behind their lines and to return NPFL fire. Taylor's gains in recent weeks in western Liberia may now give him control of the key roads to move heavy weapons and troops. Taylor's deployment near the capital probably has raised concerns among the peacekeeping contingent that he plans additional attacks in retaliation for the naval embargo and its support of ULIMO. [redacted]

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