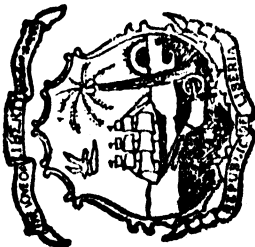


MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIR
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



AIDE MEMOIRE, THE RAPTURE OF LIBERIA-
SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS *

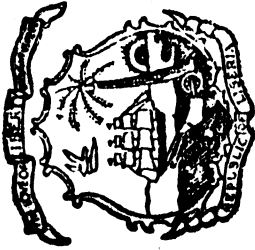
On Thursday, July 18, 1985, the Liberian Government announced the severance of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union for what was termed as "a serious breach of principles governing international relations" and "a gross interference in the internal affairs of Liberia," by Soviet diplomats in Monrovia.

The release accused the Soviet diplomats of obtaining "classified information on various military installations in the country and the defense capabilities of the military." According to the release, fourt n Liberian students were arrested at about 9:30 p.m. on the night of July 17, while they were leaving the Soviet Embassy which they had "surreptitiously entered to pass on classified information to the Soviet diplomats."

The release further said some documentary evidence was retrieved from the students and is in the possession of the Liberia security forces. The Liberian Government, in the same release, recalled its diplomatic officials in Moscow.

Although the Soviet diplomats were given three days to pack and go, not all of them left within the stipulated datelin as it became n c ssary to grant some of them additional days to round-up activities

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of their mission. The first group of 10 diplomats of the Russian Embassy left the country on July 20, three days after the Liberian Government broke diplomatic ties with Russia. The remaining thr Soviet diplomats, including the Charge d'Affairs at the Embassy, Mr. Anatoli F. Filippenko and Embassy officials Iakov Sergatchev and Andrei Kouchakor, left August 3, three weeks after their expulsion.

For their part, Liberia's diplomats in Moscow, including th Charge d'Affairs, Mr. Kandakai Duncan, second secretary, Mr. Marcus Kelley and third secretary, MacCulley Wleh were given up to August 1, 1985.

Meanwhile, on July 19, 1985, the Head of State and President of the Interim National Assembly, CIC Dr. Samuel Doe announced the appointment of an eleven-member Special Board to investigate the matter relating to the arrest of fourteen students on the night of July 17, 1985 near the Russian Embassy and the involvement of some of these students in passing on classified information to the Sovi ts. The inv stigating Board was headed by Ambassador-at-Large T. Boy Nelson and included such renowned security personns ls as B/Gen ral Mansfield Yancy, Counsellor Ephaim Smallwood, the Minister of Justice, J nkins K.Z.B. Scott, Major Patrick Minikon, Minist r of

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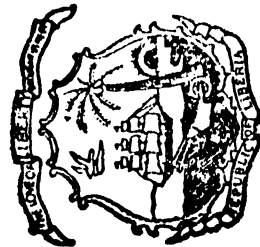
National Security and Director of Police, Mr. Wilfred Clark.

Others included Rev. Alfred G. Reeves, Bishop, United Holy Church of God in Christ, Rev. Victor Stryker, former Moderator, Presbytery of Liberia, Major General Kpenkpa Y. Konah, Deputy Chief of State, Former Ambassadors Joseph Graham and James Morgan.

Investigations into the case took a dramatic turn on on Thursday, August 8, 1985, with the production into evidence of sophisticated coded messages which the investigation board says suggests a "depth of intrigue which may not be easily noticed." Among the codes is a message from one MUSA addressed to a militant simply identified as JOE dated February 14, 1985 in which the writer, Musa, sent "something" for REACT (a clandestine movement) along with the amount of \$350.00 for passports for some of the militants already here and a list of the first group to leave when plans are finalized.

A full interpretation of the coded message which was written entirely in figures, reads as follows:

"JOE HERE IS SOMETHING FOR REACT. ENCLOSED IS THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS FOR PASSPORTS SOME OF THE MILITANTS ALREADY HAVE. THE FIRST GROUP TO LEAVE WHEN PLANS ARE FINALIZED WILL BE COMPOSED OF FIFTEEN. THEY ARE WIVI DEBBAB, DENNIS KATNE, STEWART GELIMIRA FLOMO,



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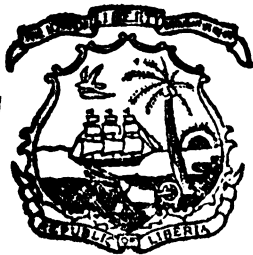
DAVID DOLO, JOSEPH MAYSON GOE, FLOMO KOKOLO, HARRY MUINBEG, FARKOLLIE, TOLO KOFFAN, TONIA RICHARDSON, THOMAS DU, MATHIAS NIMLEY AND PEWU. FIND TWO GOOD MILITANTS TO WORK WITH YOU IN CASE OF ACCIDENT.

In another message written July 27, 1985, the writer who signed off as Musa Keita, reported that "things are moving" and listed some of the same militants mentioned earlier to be included in the group that was to be sent. The list comprises entirely the names of the militants listed in the previous message.

Musa told the addressee of the message that QUINAH WILL CONTACT YOU TO GO OVER AND PICK UP FUNDS TO SEND THE MILITANTS BY ROAD. H went on to say that WHEN EVERYONE IS OVER, THINK YOU NEED TO GO TOO FOR WORKUP. I SHALL BE THERE DIRECTING THINGS FROM THE TENTH OF JULY.

Also among the documents produced in evidence was a TEMPORAL CODE FOR USAGE: N.V.C. which lists the members of the group along with their code names. The code lists the chairman of the group as BRAIN, the co-chairman as ISLAND, director of operation as PACIFIC, the secretary as INK and other members listed as COOL, SNOW, ROOF, D-9, WATER, RAIN, SUN, WALL, ATLANTIC, ROCK, FIRE AND DESK.

A release from the Special Board investigating the case said, "all enquiries and investigations are being conducted with the highest degree of professionalism."



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According to the release signed by the Board's chairman, T. Boye Nelson, "sensitive security information detailing military installations, military capability, as well as manpower deployment of the Liberian Armed Forces have been presented into evidence. The release noted that "The code used to transmit instructions or message is found to be identical to that used in theatres of World War II.

The Board said it "considers the sophistication of evidence, the magnitude of the matter and the alleged involvement of those accused, to warrant their continuing very careful inquiry and investigation."

This is not the first time Liberian-Soviet relations run sour. On November 22, 1983, the Liberian Government declared persona non grata, the Soviet Ambassador accredited here, Mr. Anatoly Oulanov, who was implicated in a plot to overthrow the Liberian Government.

A Foreign Ministry announcement at the time said the diplomat had been engaged in "activities incompatible with his diplomatic status." The expulsion action was taken after an investigation into the plot revealed that the alleged coup plotters had sought aid from the Soviet and Ghanaian embassies.

Within the days of the expulsion of its ambassador, the Soviet Government retaliated by expelling the Liberia Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. Christopher Ricks. Since then, the Liberian Mission in Moscow has been headed by the Charge d'Affairs, Mr. Kandakai Duncan.