

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 18 June 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to recent briefings by the Secretariat on the situation in Liberia and on the ongoing Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)-led peace talks in Ghana, I have the honour to refer to the ceasefire agreement signed by the Liberian parties in Accra on 17 June 2003, which envisages a United Nations role in supporting its implementation (see S/2003/657, annex).

The ceasefire agreement provides for the establishment of two ECOWAS-led verification and monitoring mechanisms. The first is the Joint Verification Team (JVT), which is tasked to verify on the ground the information provided by the parties on the locations of their respective units. It is composed of two representatives from each of the parties and includes representatives of the United Nations, the African Union and the International Contact Group on Liberia (ICGL). JVT is expected to travel to Liberia within 72 hours of the signature of the agreement. The second mechanism is the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), which will supervise and monitor the ceasefire and which will also include representatives from the United Nations.

I have received the attached letters dated 11 and 16 June 2003 from the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, respectively requesting the United Nations to provide a helicopter to transport JVT within Liberia, and inviting the United Nations to designate two military officers to participate in JVT (see annexes I and II).

In connection with those requests, the Secretariat has made arrangements to provide a helicopter from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for the transportation of the members of the Joint Verification Team once issues relating to security arrangements and support services on the ground, which are being discussed with ECOWAS, are resolved. The Secretariat has also designated two United Nations military officers who will participate in JVT, and another two will be assigned to JMC.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

Annex I

**Letter dated 11 June 2003 from the Executive Secretary of
the Economic Community of West African States to the
Secretary-General**

A ceasefire agreement is expected to be signed soon between the Government of Liberia, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL).

In accordance with the terms of agreement, an ECOWAS-led Join Verification Team (JVT), comprising two representatives from each of the warring parties, as well as representatives of the United Nations, the African Union and the International Contact Group on Liberia, will be sent to Liberia immediately following the signing of the ceasefire agreement.

It has therefore been recommended that I seek the assistance of the United Nations in providing a helicopter for the transportation of 16 members of JVT to various locations within Liberia from Saturday 14 June 2003 to Tuesday, 17 June 2003.

I have the honour to request United Nations assistance in providing a helicopter for that purpose.

(Signed) Mohamed Ibn **Chambas**
Executive Secretary

Annex II

**Letter dated 16 June 2003 from the Executive Secretary of
the Economic Community of West African States to the
Secretary-General**

I am writing to request you to designate two United Nations military personnel to participate in the Joint Verification Team which is scheduled to visit Liberia in the event a ceasefire agreement is reached by the Liberia warring parties.

May I also take this opportunity to express the appreciation of ECOWAS for the transportation facilities the United Nations plans to make available to JVT for its mission in Liberia.

(Signed) Mohamed Ibn **Chambas**
Executive Secretary
