

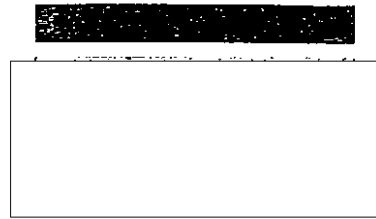


Director of
Central
Intelligence

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

~~Top Secret~~



OCO

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 07-18-2011

National Intelligence Daily

Saturday
12 April 1980

~~Top Secret~~

CG NID 80-087 LX

12 April 1980

Copy 408

~~TOP SECRET~~

Warning Notice

**Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved
(WNINTEL)**

**National Security
Information**

**Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions**





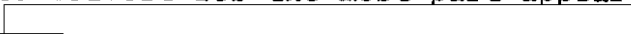
~~Top Secret~~






CIA LATE ITEM

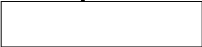
LIBERIA: Apparent Coup


President Tolbert may have been killed last night in an apparently successful coup mounted by junior elements of his presidential guard led by a Sergeant Samuel Doe. In a radio broadcast, Doe justified his coup in terms of the previous regime's "rampant corruption." 


Forces loyal to Tolbert for the most part appear to be in disarray. 

 Doe--apparently a tribal Liberian--has not clarified whether he intends to form a military government or hand over power to civilian opponents of Tolbert. He has announced, however, that he will stay in charge "until corruption is eliminated." 

Several political prisoners reportedly have been released, including Gabriel Mathews, leader of the moderately leftist Progressive People's Party, who was arrested last month on charges of treason. He helped precipitate rice riots last April which nearly brought down the Tolbert regime. 

Top military commanders and old guard politicians, such as Minister of Justice Chesson, who control police and paramilitary elements, reportedly are in hiding. 

Liberian-US relations traditionally have been characterized by a "special relationship." We have no reports that US citizens or important US civil and military communications facilities in Liberia have been attacked. If leftist civilian opposition elements come to power or gain influential positions, however, Liberia may well end its close relationship with the US or at the least impose a monetary price tag on US facilities there. 



~~Top Secret~~

12 April 1980