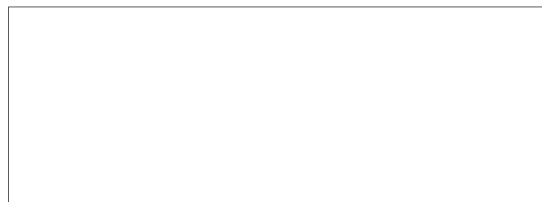
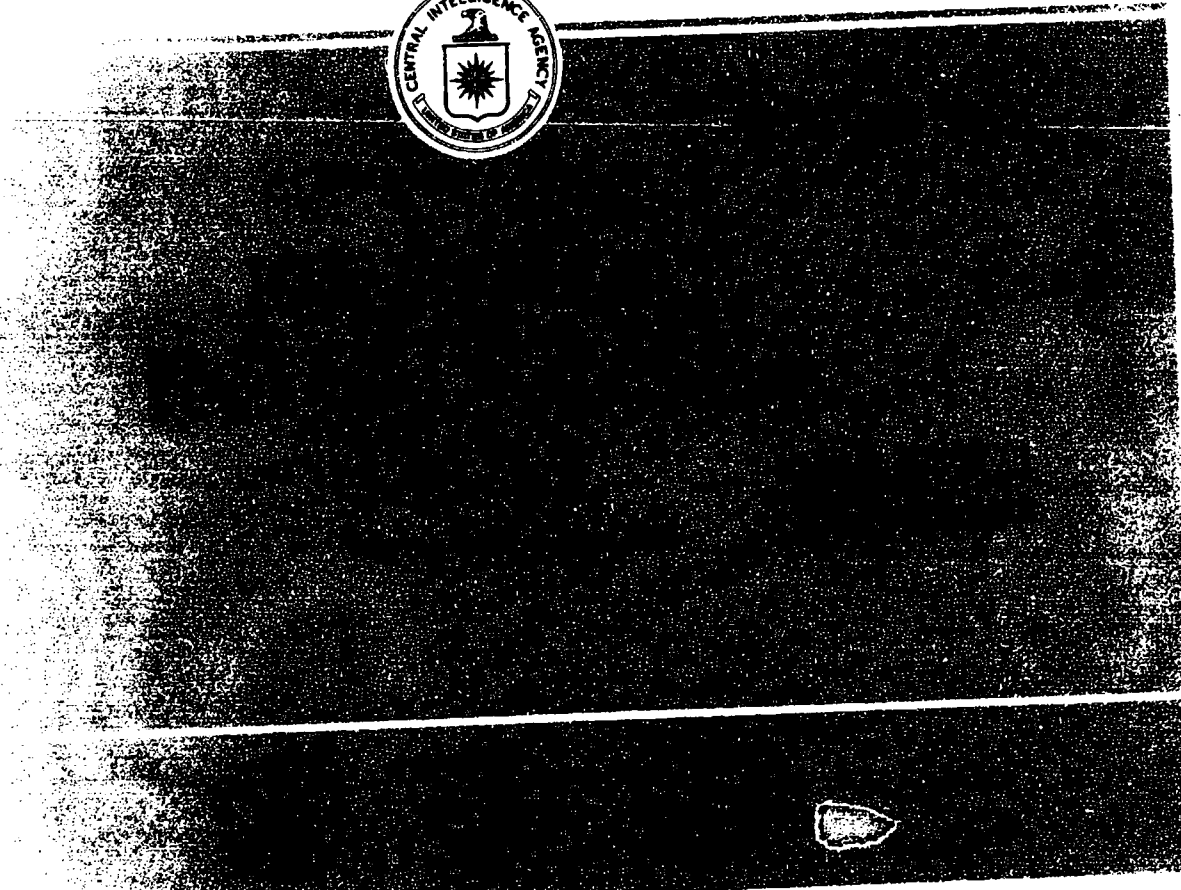


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CPAS NID 93-220JX
TCS 2920/93
21 September 1993

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28

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POOR QUALITY PAGE



(b)(3)

Contents

Notes	

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

Liberia: UN Reports on Massacre

9

In Brief

10

Special Analyses



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

~~Top Secret~~
TCS 2920/93
21 September 1993

(b)(3)

~~Top Secret~~

POOR QUALITY PAGE

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NR Record

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LIBERIA: UN Reports on Massacre

An independent UN investigation has concluded that remnants of late President Doe's army (AFL) were responsible for the massacre last June of some 600 displaced persons encamped near Harbel. Liberian rebel leader Taylor's forces had been widely blamed for the attack, but the UN report accuses the army of planting evidence implicating Taylor's rebels.

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[Redacted]

Taylor, meanwhile, has already begun a propaganda campaign alleging that the interim government conspired to conceal the army's guilt.

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Comment: Release of the report is likely to increase strains among Liberian factions, complicating implementation of the peace process, which is already losing momentum. The report will heighten the fears of the anti-Taylor factions, particularly the AFL, that the UN is biased toward Taylor. Moreover, fear of retribution for the massacre will almost certainly stiffen the resolve of the army, which is still dominated by members of President Doe's Krahn tribe, to evade disarmament. Taylor will almost certainly receive a major political boost from the investigation, which he is likely to use to undercut the Nigerian-led West African security force, which has supported the AFL against him.

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21 September 1993