

MSGNO 2 (TDXX) ALL *24/06/90* *10:09*
ZCZC 15:08:24Z (TD)

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EZ1: [Redacted]
SERIAL: [Redacted] (b)(1)
EZ2: [Redacted] (b)(3)
PASS: [Redacted] (b)(3)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~-WNINTEL [Redacted] (b)(3)
DIST: 24 JUNE 1990
COUNTRY: LIBERIA
SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1200 HOURS LOCAL TIME
DOI: 24 JUNE 1990 [Redacted] (b)(3)

SUMMARY: FIGHTING BROKE OUT BETWEEN AFL AND NPFL FORCES ON THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE 1990 IN THE CAREYSBURG AREA NEAR VOA. THE AFL UNIT DISPATCHED TO CAREYSBURG ON 23 JUNE ABANDONED ITS POSITIONS AT THE CAREYSBURG CHECKPOINT AND AT FIRESTONE PLANTATION GATE 15 ON THE SAME EVENING. ACCORDING TO UNTESTED FIRESTONE SOURCES THE REBELS CLAIMED CONTROL OF COTTONTREE AND ARE PLANNING TO RETAKE RIA ON 24 JUNE. SOUNDS OF HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE WAS HEARD COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF BENSONVILLE ON THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE. CITIZENS OF TINEE, A TOWN NEAR THE LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE BORDER, WERE REPORTED LEAVING ON THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE BECAUSE OF RUMORS THAT NPFL FORCES WERE APPROACHING THE TOWN.

TEXT: 1. FIRING ERUPTED AT BO CAMP ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA) INSTALLATION IN THE AREA OF CAREYSBURG (06-24N, 10-33W) THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE. IT HAD ENDED BY 1100 HOURS. REPORTS FROM VOA INDICATE FORCES BELONGING TO THE NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT OF LIBERIA (NPFL) AND THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) SOLDIERS WERE INVOLVED BUT NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. FIGHTING MAY HAVE SPILLED ONTO THE VOA CAMPUS. REBELS WERE STILL IN THE VOA AREA AFTER THE FIGHTING CEASED. [Redacted] (b)(1)
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2. LOCAL EMPLOYEES AT VOA ALSO REPORTED HEARING SOUNDS OF HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF BENSONVILLE (06-26N, 10-36W) ON THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE. AT 1030 HOURS REBELS INFORMED VOA SECURITY OFFICIALS AT THE COMPOUND GATE THAT THE NPFL WAS HEADING TOWARD BENSONVILLE TO MEET THE AFL. MORE REFUGEES FLEEING THE BENSONVILLE AREA ENTERED THE VOA INSTALLATION ON THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE. AN ESTIMATED 4,000 REFUGEES ARE ON THE INSTALLATION. [Redacted] (b)(1)
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3. ACCORDING TO AFL REPORTING COLONEL DAVID ((NIMLEY)), THE COMMANDER OF THE AFL UNIT SENT TO THE CAREYSBURG AREA ON 23 JUNE, RETURNED TO MONROVIA ON THE NIGHT OF 23 JUNE. AS A RESULT, SOLDIERS ABANDONED THEIR POSITIONS AT THE CAREYSBURG CHECKPOINT AND AT FIRESTONE PLANTATION (06-16N, 10-22W) GATE 15. WHEN THE SOLDIERS LEARNED THAT NIMLEY HAD RETURNED TO MONROVIA, MANY DECIDED TO DO THE SAME.

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4. THE MAJORITY OF THE INHABITANTS OF TINEE (06-58N, 11-19W), A TOWN ON THE MAIN ROAD TO SIERRA LEONE ONLY A FEW MILES FROM THE BORDER, LEFT THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF RUMORS THAT NPFL FORCES WERE APPROACHING THE TOWN. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE NERVOUSNESS OF THE VILLAGERS. THERE IS NO INDICATION THE NPFL IS ACTUALLY IN THE AREA.

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5. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ANY SHOOTING INCIDENTS AT THE FIRESTONE PLANTATION ON THE NIGHT OF 23-24 JUNE. ACCORDING TO SECOND HAND INFORMATION FROM A SERVANT AT THE PLANTATION ON THE MORNING OF 24 JUNE, THE NPFL CONTROLS COTTONTREE (06, 18N, 10-20W) NEAR HARBEL (06-16N, 10-21W)). THE REBELS ALSO TOLD THE SERVANT THAT THE NPFL WAS PLANNING TO TAKE ROBERTSFIELD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RIA) (06-14N, 10-22W) ON 24 JUNE AND THEN ADVANCE ON MONROVIA.

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6. LESS THAT A MILE FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY A GIO MAN WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED BY AN AFL SOLDIER ON THE MORNING OF 23 JUNE. THERE WERE SEVERAL REPORTS OF OTHER SHOOTING INCIDENTS THE NIGHT OF 23-24 JUNE. MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THEM, INVOLVING AFL SOLDIERS EITHER SHOOTING AT SHADOWS OR MERELY FIRING INTO THE AIR FOR EFFECT.

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WARNING: REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ --WARNING NOTICE--

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DECL: [REDACTED] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.>
ORIG/REL: [REDACTED]
END OF MESSAGE

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