

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Government of Sierra Leone on 20 March 2001 concerning the decision of the Government of Liberia to expel the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Liberia, Kemoh Salia Bao (see annex I).

Attached also is a copy of a note verbale of 20 March from the Government of Sierra Leone to the Government of Liberia declaring the Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Liberia, Samuel Peters, persona non grata (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Government statement

The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has learned with much dismay and regret about the decision of the Government of Liberia to expel Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Liberia, His Excellency Dr. Kemoh Salia Bao.

The Liberian Government has also directed that the Embassy and the Chancery presently located near Hotel Africa, be relocated within 30 days and that the premises be returned to the Government of Liberia. In addition, the Liberian Government proposes to restrict the movement of the Sierra Leonean diplomatic staff remaining in Monrovia to a 30-mile radius of the city.

The Government of Sierra Leone notes that all of these actions have been taken without any warning and constitute very serious unfriendly acts. The Government is of the opinion that these actions by the Liberian Government are not unconnected with the tremendous pressure being exerted by the international community regarding Liberia's support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the illegal exploitation of our diamonds.

It will be recalled that since the outbreak of war in Sierra Leone a decade ago, the Republic of Sierra Leone has continued to maintain full diplomatic relations with Liberia at Ambassadorial level, although Liberia reduced its diplomatic representation in Sierra Leone to the level of Chargé d'affaires. The Government of Sierra Leone has maintained this level of representation in order to provide adequate protection for the large numbers of Sierra Leoneans, particularly refugees, living in Liberia.

It is also noteworthy that the Government of Sierra Leone has been very supportive of the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the international community in general, to restore lasting peace and security in the Mano River Union and in the West African subregion in general.

In the light of the current unfriendly acts by the Government of Liberia, the Government of Sierra Leone has responded by giving the Liberian Chargé d'affaires in Sierra Leone seven days, with effect from today, 20 March, to leave the country. In addition, the Government of Sierra Leone is considering other appropriate action, which will be made public in due course.

On the question of the closure of the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia by the Liberian Government, the Government of Sierra Leone has taken note and has taken appropriate action.

Annex II to the letter dated 21 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone has declared the Chargé d'affaires of the Republic of Liberia, Samuel Peters, persona non grata for acts incompatible with his diplomatic status.

In this regard, Samuel Peters must leave Sierra Leone within 7 (seven) days effective Tuesday, 20 March 2001.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia the assurances of its highest consideration.
