

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 28 March 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, I would like to inform you that the Committee, at its 16th and 18th meetings, held on 9 August and 29 September 2000, respectively, examined a request from the Government of Sierra Leone, submitted in compliance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1306 (2000), concerning a proposed new mining, export and monitoring regime for rough and uncut diamonds from Sierra Leone, together with a draft new forgery-proof Certificate of Origin document. The Government of Sierra Leone also indicated that, after a trial period of approximately 90 days, it would inform the Committee of the effectiveness of the new regime. In this regard, and in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1306 (2000), the Committee, after careful consideration of the aforementioned request, had no objection to the procedures outlined by the Government of Sierra Leone. Furthermore, the Chairman, on 6 October 2000, addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council informing him of the Committee's decision (S/2000/966). Additional information submitted by the Government of Sierra Leone, concerning the new certification regime for the export of Sierra Leone diamonds and the first review of the new Certificate of Origin regime for the trade in Sierra Leone diamonds, was forwarded to the President of the Security Council by the Chairman on 4 December 2000 and 12 February 2001 (S/2000/1151 and S/2001/127, respectively).

In this connection, the Committee, at its 21st meeting, held on 21 March 2001, felt that, in view of the above-mentioned communications, as well as the opinion expressed in section I.F of the report of the Panel of Experts on Sierra Leone diamonds and arms, the new Certificate of Origin for the trade in Sierra Leone diamonds is effectively in operation. The Committee intends to pursue further several issues relating to the operation of the certification regime directly with the Government of Sierra Leone.



In accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1306 (2000), the Committee would appreciate it if this letter be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone
