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September 2, 1983

*National Security Decision  
Directive 101*

UNITED STATES STRATEGY TOWARDS LIBERIA (S)

Liberia is important to the United States as the site of a variety of valuable US facilities, military access rights, and private investment. Equally importantly, an unusual historical relationship has resulted in a domestic and international perception of Liberia as a special US responsibility. The objectives of the US strategy toward Liberia are:

- To promote political and economic stability through the development of democratic institutions and free enterprise;
- To preserve our facilities and access rights;
- To avoid a major defeat or embarrassment for the United States through Liberian political or economic disintegration;
- To prevent the development of Libyan, Soviet and other hostile influence. (S)

In order to achieve these objectives, the US will pursue a comprehensive and coordinated strategy which includes the following specific elements:

-- Use US influence and resources to support and guide the Liberian political process in a way that will improve its prospects for success, help maintain stability, protect US interests, and be publicly and privately defensible. This will include intensified dialogue with Head of State Doe and increased contact with all political actors to encourage the development of a moderate and viable political coalition that can be legitimized through the planned democratic process.

-- Provide adequate assistance to the Liberian transitional process through Project Democracy funding, the Human Rights Fund, USIA programs, appeals to foreign donors and private foundations, and ESF.

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-- Be alert to the possibility of meddling by unfriendly foreign governments and take necessary counter measures.

-- Step up contact with the Army and the People's Redemption Council to improve discipline and professionalism and promote their backing for the political process. ~~X~~

In this regard, move ahead with the military housing construction program, seek to implement the report of the Security Assistance Assessment Team and either increase the size of the US Military Mission in Liberia or try to increase IMET to accomplish the same goals. ~~(S)~~

-- Maintain and expand as appropriate a public information campaign to sensitize Congress and the public to Liberia's importance and our unique special relationship. This will include promoting high level visits in both directions and establishing appropriate bodies to assist in carrying out our policies.

-- Promote economic stability and sound financial management by working with the highest levels of the Liberian government and providing economic advisors.

-- Develop a private sector strategy to strengthen the Liberian economy and encourage the US business community to take a greater interest in Liberia. Facilitate the provision of adequate US Government financing and investment guarantees in support of this.

-- Actively encourage the World Bank with other foreign donors to increase their constructive involvement in and support for Liberia, and work with the IMF and Government of Liberia to help develop a workable adjustment and stabilization program.

-- Continue to give sufficient priority in the budget process to maintaining assistance flows to meet our objectives in Liberia. Current levels are approximately \$75 million a year.

-- Use of USG influence and resources to support and guide Liberia as soon as possible to a stable economic situation that is not dependent on extraordinary sources of external financing, including the IMF, debt relief, and large budgetary grants. ~~(S)~~

*Ronald Reagan*

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