



Minister of Foreign Affairs

Appendix 1
Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

MAR 22 1999

Mr. David Pratt, M.P.
House of Commons
Room 325, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your letter of February 22, 1999, in which you kindly forwarded your suggestions concerning your role as my Special Envoy for Sierra Leone.

I found your comprehensive views very insightful, and I agree that the overall objective of your mission is a fact-finding one with particular areas requiring special attention. I propose that your mission should focus primarily, as you rightly pointed out, on the political situation faced by Sierra Leone both internally and in relation to its neighbours, on negotiating prospects, on the support for the rebels, as well as on the flow of arms in the region. While it should be easy to meet with President Kabbah's government, it would be premature at this difficult and delicate juncture to meet with the RUF and AFRC.

As you are engaged in the preparatory stages for your mission, I would take this opportunity to encourage you to look carefully at the humanitarian situation and the conditions of Sierra Leonean refugees and displaced persons and the UN Secretary-General's report, released on March 5, 1999, which paints a bleak picture of the situation in Sierra Leone. The Director General of Humanitarian Assistance at CIDA, Mr. Hunter McGill, has been recently in Freetown, and he should be in a position to give you good advice on human security issues including the role of the various humanitarian agencies in Sierra Leone.

I believe it will be helpful to identify the actors in the conflict and their objectives (what has driven all the parties in the conflict and how Sierra Leone got to where it is today), the role of neighbouring countries, the consequences on children involved in the conflict, the impact of mercenaries and evidence of their countries of origin, the role of the diamond industry on the current situation, and, above all, possible scenarios for the future of Sierra Leone.