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108th Congress, 1st Session – – – – – – – – – – – – – – House Document 108–21

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A SIX-MONTH PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13194, OF JANUARY 18, 2001 AND EXPANDED IN SCOPE IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13213, OF MAY 22, 2001, PURSUANT TO 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) AND 50 U.S.C. 1703(c)

JANUARY 27, 2003.—Referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

19–011 WASHINGTON : 2003

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, January 16, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213 of May 22, 2001.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA

This report to the Congress covers developments over the course of the past 6 months concerning the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, in response to the actions and policies of the insurgent Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and pursuant to which the United States imposed a general ban on the direct and indirect importation of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone into the United States, except those imports controlled through the Certificate of Origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. On May 22, 2001, I issued Executive Order 13213, which expanded the scope of that national emergency to include actions of the Government of Liberia in support of the RUF and prohibited the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia. This report is submitted pursuant to section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c).

1. There have been no amendments to the Rough Diamonds (Sierra Leone and Liberia) Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 591 (the "Regulations").

2. In the 6-month period since July 18, 2002, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has not issued any specific licenses authorizing transactions otherwise prohibited by the Regulations. Since my last report, OFAC has undertaken one civil penalty proceeding which has resulted in a recommendation to the U.S. Customs Service concerning a seizure for apparent violations of the sanctions and may, in the future, result in an OFAC civil penalty assessment. OFAC continues to disseminate details of this program to the financial and international trade communities and, in cooperation with the U.S. Customs Service, is closely monitoring potential violations of the general bans on the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone that are not controlled through the Certificate of Origin regime and on the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia.

3. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from July 18, 2002, through January 17, 2003, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of a national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia are reported to be approximately $41,000, most of which represent wage and salary costs for Federal personnel. Personnel costs were largely centered in the Department of the Treasury (particularly in the OFAC, the U.S. Customs Service, the Office of the Under Secretary for Enforcement, and the Office of the General Counsel), the Department of State, and the Department of Commerce.

4. For the first time in more than a decade, Sierra Leone is at peace. More than 47,000 RUF rebels and members of a pro-government militia organization have disarmed. More than 80,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and a large number of internally displaced persons have returned to their homes. Multi-party elections were conducted peacefully on May 14, 2002. The RUF, the political party that grew out of the rebel RUF, fared poorly, not winning a single seat in Parliament. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the world's largest U.N. peacekeeping force, continues to assist the Sierra Leone army to provide internal security. The army has been reconfigured, renamed, and re-trained by the British-led International Military Advisory and Training Team. The Sierra Leone military are deployed to all vital locations and are securing the country's borders, with heavy British guidance and support. The police have a presence in all provincial capitals. Government authority and services are being extended, albeit slowly, throughout the country.

Though there has been improvement, a significant portion of the mining and trading of diamonds remains outside Sierra Leone Government control. Liberian President Charles Taylor, who supported and sustained the RUF during its long campaign of terror in Sierra Leone, remains defiant of U.N. Security Council sanctions. He continues to trade in illicit diamonds smuggled from Sierra Leone, smuggle illegal arms, support RUF elements within Liberia, and pose a threat to the security and fragile stability of Sierra Leone. In June 2002, Liberian troops crossed into Sierra Leone to attack border villages. Until the threat to Sierra Leone from Charles Taylor is eliminated, and the mining of Sierra Leonean diamonds is brought under control, the threat to U.S. foreign policy remains and Executive Orders 13194 and 13213 will remain in effect.

I will continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to deal with this threat and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments as required by law.

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