A REPORT CONSISTENT WITH THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REPORT, CONSISTENT WITH THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION TO KEEP THE CONGRESS INFORMED ON CLASHES BETWEEN LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT AND REBEL FORCES IN THE VICINITY OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA

JUNE 10, 2003.—Referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed
THE WHITE HOUSE,

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Clashes between Liberian government and
rebel forces in the vicinity of the United States Embassy in Mon-
rovia, Liberia and the potential for further deterioration of the se-
curity environment in Liberia render and the safety of the United
States Embassy and its occupants uncertain.

On June 7, 2003, an assessment team and standby response and
evacuation force of approximately 35 U.S. military personnel from
the U.S. European Command were pre-positioned in Freetown, Si-
erra Leone. On June 8, 2003, these forces moved into Monrovia, Li-
beria to augment the Embassy security forces and to aid in the
evacuation of U.S. citizens from Liberia if required.

Additionally, on June 8, 2003, a coup attempt occurred in Mauri-
tania. Fighting has been reported in the vicinity of the United
States Embassy. This fighting continued during the morning of
June 9 in the center of Nouakchott, about three kilometers from
the Embassy. At the request of the United States Embassy, an as-
essment team and standby response and evacuation force of an es-
timated 34 U.S. military personnel from the U.S. European Com-
mand are being sent to Nouakchott, Mauritania and are expected
to arrive on June 10, 2003. Their mission is to augment the Em-
bassy security forces and to aid in the evacuation of American citi-
zens from Mauritania if required.

In addition to the forces noted above, several fixed wing aircraft
and their aircrew have been pre-positioned in Dakar, Senegal in
order to shorten the response time should an evacuation of Amer-
ican citizens from either Liberia or Mauritania be required.

Although in both cases the U.S. forces are equipped for combat,
these movements were undertaken solely for the purpose of pro-
tecting American citizens and property. United States forces will
redeploy as soon as it is determined that the threats to the Em-
bassy compounds have ended or an evacuation, if necessary, is com-
pleted.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority
to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and
Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts
to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers
Resolution.
I appreciate the support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.