

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3879

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2000

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To support the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
in its peace-building efforts, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sierra Leone Peace
3 Support Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
6 findings:

7 (1) Eight years of civil war and massive human
8 rights violations have created a humanitarian crisis
9 in the Republic of Sierra Leone, leaving over 50,000
10 dead and 1,000,000 displaced from their homes.

11 (2) As many as 480,000 Sierra Leoneans have
12 fled into neighboring countries, especially Guinea.

13 (3) All parties to the conflict have committed
14 abuses, but the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)
15 and its ally, the former Sierra Leonean army
16 (AFRC) are responsible for the overwhelming major-
17 ity.

18 (4) The RUF and AFRC have systematically
19 abducted, raped, mutilated, killed, or forced children
20 to fight alongside RUF soldiers.

21 (5) The RUF continues to hold hundreds and
22 perhaps thousands of prisoners, including many
23 child soldiers, despite the agreement of RUF leader-
24 ship at Lome to release all children.

25 (6) The civil defense forces committed human
26 rights violations, including killings and recruitment

1 of child soldiers, and Economic Community of West
2 African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG)
3 forces have also committed human rights abuses, in-
4 cluding executions of captured combatants and
5 killings of civilians.

6 (7) Neighboring countries, especially Liberia
7 and Burkina Faso, have contributed greatly to the
8 destruction of Sierra Leone by aiding and arming
9 the RUF and providing sanctuary for RUF fighters.

10 (8) International humanitarian efforts to assist
11 Sierra Leoneans, both at home and in Guinea, have
12 fallen far short of need such that conditions in ref-
13 ugee camps and among displaced persons camps are
14 deplorable, food and medicine is dangerously inad-
15 equate, and the refugee population on the Sierra
16 Leonean border continues to be preyed upon by
17 RUF insurgents and subjected to rape, mutilation,
18 or killing.

19 (9) Demobilization, demilitarization, and re-
20 integration (DDR) efforts, as called for in the Lome
21 agreement of July 1999, have begun months late
22 and are still at beginning stages.

23 (10) With the withdrawal of the West African
24 peacekeeping forces, the United Nations Security

1 Council has approved the deployment of 11,000
2 peacekeeping forces for Sierra Leone.

3 (11) There are approximately 45,000 combat-
4 ants, including many child soldiers, in Sierra Leone
5 who must be demobilized, provided with alternate
6 employment, and reintegrated into their commu-
7 nities.

8 (12) Both the Government of Sierra Leone and
9 the RUF/AFRC formally agreed in the Lome Con-
10 vention of July 7, 1999, to uphold, promote, and
11 protect the human rights (including the right to life
12 and liberty, freedom from torture, the right to a fair
13 trial, freedom of conscience, expression, and associa-
14 tion, and the right to take part in the governance of
15 one's country) of every Sierra Leonean as well as
16 the enforcement of humanitarian law.

17 (b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—The Congress urges
18 the President to vigorously promote efforts to end further
19 degradation of conditions in the Republic of Sierra Leone,
20 to dramatically increase United States assistance to demo-
21 bilization, demilitarization, and reintegration (DDR) ef-
22 forts and humanitarian initiatives, to assist in the collec-
23 tion of documentation about human rights abuses by all
24 parties, and to engage in diplomatic initiatives aimed at
25 consolidating the peace and protecting human rights.

1 **SEC. 3. DEMOBILIZATION, DEMILITARIZATION, AND RE-**
2 **INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
4 priated to the President \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2001
5 for assistance under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign
6 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221 et seq.) to the
7 Sierra Leone DDR Trust Fund of the International Bank
8 for Reconstruction and Development for demobilization,
9 demilitarization, and reintegration assistance in Sierra
10 Leone. Assistance under the preceding sentence may not
11 be used to provide stipends to ex-combatants of the civil
12 war in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

13 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appro-
14 priated pursuant to subsection (a)—

15 (1) are in addition to any other amounts avail-
16 able for the purpose described in such subsection;
17 and

18 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
19 pended.

20 **SEC. 4. DEMOCRATIZATION, ELECTORAL, AND JUDICIAL AS-**
21 **SISTANCE.**

22 (a) JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to
23 be appropriated to the President \$5,000,000 for fiscal
24 year 2001 for assistance to rebuild and strengthen the ca-
25 pacity of the judiciary in the Republic of Sierra Leone and

1 to assist efforts to establish the rule of law and maintain
2 law and order in Sierra Leone.

3 (b) EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDU-
4 CATION AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE.—Beginning 1 year
5 after the conclusion of free and fair elections in Sierra
6 Leone, the President may provide expanded international
7 military education and training assistance to the military
8 forces and related civilian personnel of Sierra Leone under
9 section 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
10 U.S.C. 2347) solely for the purpose of providing training
11 relating to defense management, civil-military relations,
12 law enforcement cooperation, and military justice.

13 (c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appro-
14 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
15 under subsection (a)—

16 (1) are in addition to any other amounts avail-
17 able for the purposes described in such subsection;
18 and

19 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
20 pended.

21 **SEC. 5. ACCOUNTABILITY.**

22 (a) STATEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN
23 ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY.—It is the sense of the Congress
24 that a thorough and nonpartisan initiative to collect infor-
25 mation on human rights abuses by all parties to the con-

1 flict in the Republic of Sierra Leone be undertaken. Com-
2 prehensive and detailed information, particularly the iden-
3 tification of specific units, individuals, and commanders
4 found to have been especially abusive, will be essential for
5 vetting human rights abusers from the newly formed
6 armed forces and police forces of Sierra Leone and for
7 deterring abuses by all parties in the future. Accordingly,
8 the Congress calls upon the administration to strongly
9 support an independent process of data collection on
10 human rights abuses in Sierra Leone, for use by the Truth
11 and Reconciliation Commission when it has been estab-
12 lished, and to support any future initiatives of inter-
13 national accountability for Sierra Leone.

14 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
15 COMMISSION.—

16 (1) ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND
17 SUPPORT OF COMMISSION.—The President is au-
18 thorized to provide assistance for the establishment
19 and support of a Truth and Reconciliation Commis-
20 sion to establish accountability for human rights
21 abuses in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

22 (2) ASSISTANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DATA
23 COLLECTION.—The Secretary of State, acting
24 through the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of
25 Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, is authorized

1 to collect human rights data with respect to Sierra
2 Leone and assist the Truth and Reconciliation Com-
3 mission in carrying out its functions.

4 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (A) ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF
6 COMMISSION.—There is authorized to be appro-
7 priated to the President \$1,500,000 for fiscal
8 year 2001 for assistance under chapter 4 of
9 part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
10 to carry out paragraph (1).

11 (B) HUMAN RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION.—

12 There is authorized to be appropriated to the
13 Secretary of State \$500,000 for fiscal year
14 2001 to carry out paragraph (2). Amounts ap-
15 propriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-
16 propriations under the preceding sentence shall
17 be deposited in the “Human Rights Fund” of
18 the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
19 Labor of the Department of State.

20 (C) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-

21 priated pursuant to the authorization of appro-
22 priations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are
23 authorized to remain available until expended.

24 **SEC. 6. NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF SIERRA LEONE.**

25 (a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

1 (1) ARMS FLOWS.—Not later than 6 months
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 President shall transmit to the Committee on Inter-
4 national Relations of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
6 ate a report which provides information, including
7 measurable, credible, and verifiable evidence (to the
8 extent practicable), concerning the extent to which
9 neighboring countries of the Republic of Sierra
10 Leone are involved in arms flows into Sierra Leone.

11 (2) SIERRA LEONEAN MINERALS.—Not later
12 than 6 months after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act, the President shall transmit to the Com-
14 mittee on International Relations of the House of
15 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Re-
16 lations of the Senate a report which provides infor-
17 mation, including measurable, credible, and
18 verifiable evidence (to the extent practicable), con-
19 cerning illicit sales of Sierra Leonean gold and dia-
20 monds through neighboring countries of the Repub-
21 lic of Sierra Leone.

22 (b) NOTIFICATION BY SECRETARY OF STATE.—If a
23 report transmitted by the President pursuant to para-
24 graph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) contains measurable,
25 credible, or verifiable evidence that a country is involved

1 in arms flows into Sierra Leone, or that a country is in-
2 volved in illicit sales of Sierra Leonean gold or diamonds
3 through that country, then the Secretary of State—

4 (1) shall take all necessary steps to initiate dip-
5 lomatic efforts to bring about the termination of
6 such activities by the country; and

7 (2) if the country has not ceased the proscribed
8 activity within 3 months of the initiation of such
9 diplomatic efforts, shall inform the country of the
10 possibility that United States foreign assistance for
11 the country may be terminated or suspended if the
12 country does not cease the proscribed activity.

13 (c) ASSISTANCE FOR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.—
14 United States assistance may be provided to the central
15 government of a neighboring country of the Republic of
16 Sierra Leone only if such government—

17 (1)(A) provides demonstrated support for the
18 peace process in the Republic of Sierra Leone in ac-
19 cordance with the Lome Convention of July 7, 1999;
20 and

21 (B) does not provide training or other support
22 for the RUF/AFRC forces or any other forces pro-
23 scribed under the Lome Convention; and

24 (2) cooperates with efforts to monitor arms
25 flows to Sierra Leone.

1 (3) UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE.—In this sub-
2 section, the term “United States assistance” means
3 assistance of any kind which is provided by grant,
4 sale, loan, lease, credit, guaranty, or insurance, or
5 by any other means, by any agency or instrumen-
6 tality of the United States Government.

Passed the House of Representatives May 3, 2000.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.