



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COPY

8 June 2006

Excellency,

Let me congratulate you on your membership in the Organizational Committee. You have great challenges in front of you. Your work in the Peacebuilding Commission will be of great significance for all those living in countries emerging from conflict. I trust that you will soon agree on the structural and procedural aspects of the Organizational Committee so that the substantive work in the country-specific meeting can start without delay.

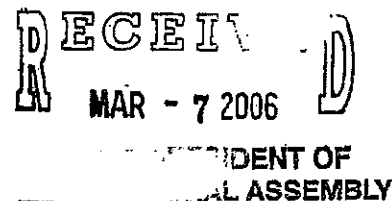
Since the Organizational Committee now is constituted, I would like to send you a copy of a letter sent to me from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, H.E. Mr. Joe Robert Permabgi, inviting the Peacebuilding Commission to operate in Sierra Leone. I trust that this letter will be duly considered in your upcoming discussions on the country-specific meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jan Eliasson

To: Attached List

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AFFAIRS SECTION
DATE RECEIVED: 12 June 06
INFO: SB, JK, RP, GZ, CM, File



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February 27, 2006

The President of the General Assembly
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Excellency,

h2 **Invitation to the Peace Building Commission to Operate in Sierra Leone**

On the instruction of my government, I write to request that the Peace Building Commission consider selecting Sierra Leone among its first country - specific operations.

Sierra Leone experienced a violent armed conflict from 1991 to 2002, and is now going through a post-conflict recovery process. The country has earned the distinction of hosting the most successful United Nations peace keeping operation in recent times, by virtue of which it has become a model of peace processes emulated by other conflict situations in the world.

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, which at the height of the conflict was the largest UN peace keeping force in the world, completed its withdrawal on December 31, 2005, barely three years after the war formally ended, yielding the responsibility of state security to the country's recently reorganized security system.

To support Sierra Leone to address the causes of the conflict, consolidate the gains in peace and put the country back on the path to sustainable development, the United Nations has established an Integrated Office in Sierra Leone.

The Government has designed an instrument, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, for post-conflict recovery effort, which has also been accepted by the donor community as the basis for their support for the country.

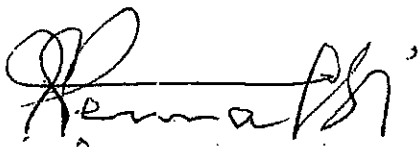
The above experiences added to those gained in formulating and implementing a highly successful DDR programme, hosting a highly successful UN - sponsored international conference on DDR, a national reconciliation strategy, governance and judicial reforms, capacity and institutional rebuilding, the work of two transitional institutions - The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court - a rapidly developing democratic

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process, put Sierra Leone in a position to work meaningfully with the new Peace Building Commission.

In spite of the remarkable progress in the transition from war to durable peace and sustainable development, numerous formidable challenges remain in the way of the recovery process, for which we need the support of the Peace Building Commission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Robert Pemagbi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Robert Pemagbi
Ambassador/Permanent Representative