

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)*

PRESS RELEASE

1 May 2002

**CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF KENYAN ARMED FORCES PAYS
COURTESY CALL ON ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Freetown - The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, Gen. Joseph Kibwana, today paid a courtesy call on the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Behrooz Sadry.

Gen. Kibwana is on a four-day visit to Sierra Leone, during which he will hold discussions with officials from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and visit the locations where Kenyan peacekeepers are deployed.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Sadry commended the interest shown by Kenya and other members of the international community in contributing to the peace process in Sierra Leone, especially by the provision of troops. UNAMSIL has become a role model in modern peacekeeping operations, the Acting Special Representative noted, and therefore it is essential that the mission not only succeed in the execution of its mandate, but that its achievements are properly consolidated. It is expected that UNAMSIL will remain in Sierra Leone until the country is able to stand on its own, he said.

Gen. Kibwana, who is leading a four-man delegation, said that he was in Sierra Leone to acquaint himself with the work of the Mission. UNAMSIL's Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Opande is a Kenyan national; Kenya also has a battalion serving with UNAMSIL.