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PRESS RELEASE

UNAMSIL ACTING SRSG RECEIVES VISITING NIGERIAN LAWMAKERS

Freetown: The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Alan Doss on Monday 8 September, received a delegation of Nigerian lawmakers from the Committee on Army, Federal House of Representatives.

The five-man delegation led by Honourable Ado Audu Dogo said the purpose of their tour was to assess the current activities of Nigerian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and get information that will facilitate their decision making process concerning the Nigerian Army.

Honorable Dogo commended the United Nations and its leadership for their support and encouragement towards the successful tenure of Nigerian peacekeepers in Sierra Leone.

“This is a historic visit by elected representatives of the people, especially with the “enthronement of democracy in Nigeria.” he said.

“Restoring peace is a collaborative effort of policy makers and indeed the operators on the field and we are here to ensure that we fulfill such commitment,” he said.

He confirmed that the Nigerian Parliament through its Committee, would continue to support the good works of UNAMSIL in the process of restoring lasting peace to Sierra Leone and the sub region.

Welcoming them, Mr. Alan Doss said, “I am delighted that a delegation of African parliamentarians is visiting the mission”. He noted that Nigeria played an important role in the peace process in Sierra Leone and the Sub region.

“Your contribution has been commendable and you must collectively take a sense of pride in your troops and their leadership” He said.

Mr. Doss also commended President Obasanjo’s personal commitment towards the peace process in Sierra Leone and the sub region. He cited the vanguard role played by Nigerian peacekeepers in the recent deployment to Liberia under the sub regional peace force, Economic Community of West African States Interposition Force (ECOMIL)

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The Acting SRSG cautioned that, whilst a lot of progress had been made in Sierra Leone, there were many challenges ahead as UNAMSIL draws down its forces, adding that Nigerian peacekeepers will be among the last to leave Sierra Leone.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call on the Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande, and expressed their gratitude for his support and assistance to Nigerian peacekeepers.

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