

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)*

PRESS RELEASE

10 October 2002

**ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETS BRITISH ROYAL
COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES DELEGATION**

Freetown – A visiting 16-member delegation from the British Royal College of Defence Studies on 8 October paid a courtesy call on the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Behrooz Sadry. The delegation is on a study tour of the country and had come to seek the views of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on peacekeeping operations.

The Acting Special Representative gave an overview of UNAMSIL's activities thus far, pointing out some of the severe constraints the Mission faced in the early stages of operations, including the May 2000 crisis during which UN peacekeepers were abducted but subsequently released.

Mr. Sadry explained that relations between the UN and troop-contributing countries, who are normally consulted at various stages of a mission's activities, have improved greatly.

Responding to questions from some members of the delegation on the status of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sierra Leone, the Acting Special Representative said their resettlement was an on-going process. He, however, lamented the fresh influx of Liberian refugees, which he attributed to heightening hostilities in Liberia. Underscoring the need for peace in the sub-region, Mr. Sadry said peace could not be sustained in one country unless there was peace in all the countries of the Mano River Union. The Union is made up of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Earlier, UNAMSIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande had briefed the delegation on the various aspects of the Mission's military operations.

The delegation, led by Dr. A. E. Montgomery, comprised senior officers from Britain, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Nepal, Russia and the USA, as well as the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Mr. Alan Jones.

*UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-273-183/4/5 Fax: 232-22-273-189*