

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

11 July 2002

**CANADIAN VICE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF AND UNHCR OFFICIAL PAY  
COURTESY CALLS ON ACTING FORCE COMMANDER**

*Freetown* - The Canadian Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Greg R. Maddison, and the Country Representative for Senegal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr. Dillah Doumaye, have paid courtesy calls on the Acting Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Maj. Gen. Martin L. Agwai, at his UNAMSIL Headquarters in Freetown.

The Acting Force Commander yesterday thanked the Canadian Government for its contribution to UN peacekeeping missions, pointing out that the military observers from Canada serving with UNAMSIL have played a very significant role in the peace process.

Answering an inquiry from Admiral Maddison, who is in the country as part of his tour of UN peacekeeping operations, the Acting Force Commander talked about the need for more training of the Sierra Leone Police personnel to enable them to take over law and order functions when UNAMSIL finally withdraws. He called on the international community to adopt security measures that would not put Sierra Leone's hard-won peace in jeopardy to avoid the kind of problems currently being experienced in Liberia.

Admiral Maddison thanked UNAMSIL for its role in disarming combatants as assisting the Government of Sierra Leone to hold free and fair elections. He said that it was interesting and encouraging to note that Sierra Leoneans came together to resolve their differences without a single shot being fired by UNAMSIL peacekeepers.

During his discussions with the Acting Force Commander on 9 July, the UNHCR Country Representative for Senegal said his visit to Sierra Leone was meant to familiarize him with the refugee situation in the region. His tour will also take him to Guinea Bissau, Mali and Liberia.

Maj. Gen. Agwai briefed Mr. Doumaye on UNAMSIL's current activities particularly its role in assisting the local UNHCR office with trucks to move Liberian refugees and Sierra Leonean returnees from Liberia into the eastern districts of Sierra Leone.

---

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