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FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Freetown – Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone Mr. Behrooz Sadry and Sierra Leone Vice President Solomon Berewa on Friday officiated at a flag-raising ceremony held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in Freetown – part of a series of events to commemorate the International Day of Peace, which falls on 21 September.

After inspecting a guard of honour mounted by UNAMSIL peacekeepers from Nigerian Battalion 10, Mr. Sadry raised the UN flag, while the Vice President raised the Sierra Leonean flag. The Acting Special Representative then read UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s statement to mark the occasion. In his statement, Mr. Annan urged all nations and peoples to cease all hostilities in honour of the day.

In his own remarks, Mr. Sadry said this year marked a new era in the history of the Sierra Leone and called on everyone to observe the International Day of Peace. He said peace in Sierra Leone was real and that the country should stand out as a shining example by showing that violence had no place in the world.

In a brief statement, the Vice President said he was delighted to take part in the day’s activities and acknowledged the importance of peace in Sierra Leone, adding that peace was “an indispensable pre-requisite for stability and development.”

Earlier, two peace poles were presented to both the Vice President and Mr. Sadry by the representative of the World Peace Prayer Society, Sierra Leone Chapter, Mr. Bockarie Enssah, and Mr. Chernor Bah, President of the Children’s Forum and a student of the Albert Academy Secondary School. Mr. Enssah explained that the peace poles were handcrafted and dedicated the world over as monuments of peace. The peace poles carried the message: “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”

The Vice President and the Acting Special Representative climaxed the ceremony with the ringing of a peace bell.

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