



UNMIL/PIO/PR/46

Press release, 15 April 2006

**UN Envoy presented with “Grand Gedeh Development Plan;”
Pledges UN support to development of the County**

Zwedru, Liberia – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, together with the U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth, and the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, Lin Songtian, on Thursday, 13 April 2006, travelled to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, in the south-eastern part of the country, at the invitation of the Grand Gedeh Senior Senator and President Pro Tempore, Mr. Isaac Nyenabo, to launch the “Grand Gedeh Development Plan.”



SRSG Doss in Zwedru with Mr. Nyenabo, Amb. Booth, Amb. Songtian and other government representatives

During the visit, Mr. Nyenabo presented the delegation with copies of the plan, which consists of four project proposals focusing on agriculture, education, hospital restoration and rehabilitation of roads, for a total of over US\$ 3 million.

The Grand Gedeh Superintendent, Mr. Brown Tarty, and the City Mayoress of Zwedru, Ms. Ophelia Gladys, extended a warm welcome to the SRSG and the delegation, and thanked them for bringing peace to the country and for their continuous support. They also underlined the County’s urgent need for basic services and infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of roads.



From left: Amb. Booth, SRSG Doss and Amb. Songtian gowned by the local community at the end of ceremony

Addressing the County Administration, community leaders and local residents who had gathered at the Zwedru City Hall, Special Representative Doss applauded the Senior Senator’s initiative to launch the development plan. He spoke about the importance of focusing on development, especially now that the war is over. “Development depends on the local people, not only the donors,” Mr. Doss reminded. “Development will work if you make it work and the international community will be here to help you.”

The SRSG explained that UNMIL and the international community together with the Government would intensify efforts to address the concerns raised, especially the rehabilitation of the roads. He however asked the people to exercise patience as the process will take some time. Mr. Doss used the occasion to remind county residents that peace is a precondition for development and therefore encouraged community members to inform UNMIL of any weapons still remaining in their midst, to report any efforts to recruit mercenaries and urged them to stop violence against women.

Ambassador Booth and Ambassador Songtian said that they would review the plan and pledged their governments’ assistance to the reconstruction of the County, especially in the areas of education and agriculture. While in Zwedru, the delegation also visited the Zwedru Multilateral High School Campus and the Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital and was hosted by the Ethiopian Contingent serving in the area. The delegation included representatives from the government of Liberia, UNMIL senior officials, and the Director of USAID.
