



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 13 June 2005

Programme No. 961

Duration: 2'48"

CHINA GIVES BOOST TO AFRICAN PEACE MISSION

VIDEO

GIRL ON ANT HILL

JUNGLE

REMAINS OF HOUSE

FIGHTING

PEACEKEEPERS IN LIBERIA

GUEHENNO ON-CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

They wait for help to come...in a village deep in the West African Jungle of Liberia.

They need medical attention – immediately.

Help is on its way. From nearly eight-thousand miles...and a world away...in China. (13")

More than a thousand highly trained Chinese Peacekeepers are on the ground in UN Peacekeeping missions around the world -- from the Congo to Haiti. Making China the biggest troop contributor of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. But China's contribution is more than just numbers.... (16.3)

GUEHENNO: (In English)

“The kind of contribution that China is making is very valuable because they come with very specialized capacities.”

PEACEKEEPERS JOGGING

NARRATION

Capacities like engineering -- needed to restore roads and bridges devastated after years of battle. Here in Liberia bridges are built with -- and for -- the local population. (9.7)

BEN ON-CAMERA

J. MORRIS BEN: (In English)

"This bridge is so important because it links us with some districts, like the other districts."

NARRATION

And in a step to secure long-lasting peace in Liberia, specialized Chinese transport companies now carry former fighters by the thousands to nationwide disarmament programmes...all part of a national campaign in which those fighters trade weapons-for-cash. More than five million rounds of ammunition are now in custody of U.N. peacekeepers. (19)

And remember those Chinese doctors and nurses? Often the only lifeline in a region whose healthcare system is all but wiped out -- they trek through difficult terrain to reach remote villages...and work to staff hospitals and supply them with China's latest medical equipment. (15)

But being so far from home is often difficult says nurse Ma Yu Jie... (3.4)

MA YU JIE ON-CAMERA

MA YU-JIE : (Mandarin)

“Can you hear me?”

NARRATION

....who reaches out to her husband through the Internet. (2.2)

MA YU JIE ON-CAMERA

MA YU-JIE : (Mandarin)

“Can you see this?”

NARRATION

Despite the distance, Ma says she's proud of what she's doing. At this ceremony the work of all nurses here is honored. And she adds, the sacrifices are worth it if China can serve as an example to other nations. (11.5)

MA YU JIE ON-CAMERA

MA YU-JIE : (In English)

“I think this peacekeeping mission is good to China and good to all over the world.”

NARRATION

And now China plans to expand its role even more...it has just agreed to join the UN's newest peacekeeping operation in the Sudan. (7)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by United Nations Television (3)