

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 10 March 2004 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

The members of the Security Council thank you for your letter dated 26 February 2004 in which you draw their attention to the difficulties faced by the Special Court for Sierra Leone with regard to its third-year budget. They have also taken note of your proposal that the Council invite you to bring the matter to the attention of the General Assembly with a view to seeking the appropriation of funds to the Court, while preserving the independence of the Court.

Having consulted the Council members, I am pleased to inform you that they have no objection to your proposal with regard to supplementing voluntary contributions that have been pledged but are as yet unpaid, as well as those that have been received.

It is, of course, the understanding of Council members that any action you may take with the General Assembly on this issue will in no way affect the independence and structure of the Special Court for Sierra Leone as established by the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone signed on 16 January 2002.

(Signed) Jean-Marc **de la Sablière**
President of the Security Council