



Security Council

Fifty-second Year

3809th Meeting

Wednesday, 6 August 1997, 11.40 a.m.

New York

Provisional

<i>President:</i>	Sir John Weston	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
<i>Members:</i>	Chile	Mr. Eguiguren
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	Costa Rica	Mr. Sáenz Biolley
	Egypt	Mr. Aboul-Magd
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Da Rosa
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Portugal	Mr. Soares
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Sweden	Mr. Dahlgren
	United States of America	Mr. Richardson

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Jonah (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Security Council:

"The Security Council recalls the statements of its President of 27 May (S/PRST/1997/29) and 11 July 1997 (S/PRST/1997/36) following the military *coup d'état* in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It condemns the overthrow of the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and calls upon the military junta to take immediate steps to bring about the unconditional restoration of that Government. The Council remains deeply concerned about the situation in Sierra Leone, which endangers peace, security and stability in the whole region.

"The Security Council underlines the need to implement the Abidjan Agreement, which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to the Committee of Four Foreign Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for their efforts to negotiate with representatives of the military junta from 17 to 18 July

and 29 to 30 July this year in Abidjan on a peaceful resolution of the crisis and reiterates its full support for the objectives of this mediation. It deeply regrets the breakdown of these talks and considers that the responsibility for this failure rests entirely with the military junta, who refused to negotiate in good faith.

"The Security Council considers that the military junta's attempt to set conditions for the restoration of the democratically elected Government is unacceptable and calls upon the junta to renounce its declared intention to remain in power and to resume negotiations with the ECOWAS Committee of Four Foreign Ministers without delay.

"The Security Council will, in the absence of a satisfactory response from the military junta, be ready to take appropriate measures with the objective of restoring the democratically elected Government of President Kabbah.

"The Security Council remains deeply concerned at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone and at the continued looting and commandeering of relief supplies of international agencies. It calls upon the military junta to cease all interference with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone. The Council condemns the continuing violence and threats of violence by the junta towards the civilian population, foreign nationals and personnel of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group, and calls for an end to such acts of violence. The Council also expresses its concern at the effects of the continuing influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, in particular Guinea, due to the crisis in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all States and relevant international organizations to provide help to these countries in dealing with this problem.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of this matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/42.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.