

## INTERNATIONAL

## United States seeking to keep Libya sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States found supporters last week in its quest to prevent sanctions on Libya from being lifted and vowed to block any resolution now that might remove the embargoes permanently.

Several Security Council members said they backed a U.S. statement welcoming Libyan progress in settling the 1988 Pan Am bombing case but demanding that Tripoli meet more U.N. demands before sanctions are lifted. The council suspended its 7-year-old sanctions April 5 after Libya handed over two suspects wanted in the bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

The sanctions include an air and arms embargo and a ban on the sale to Libya of some oil-related equipment.

The trial, which will be conducted by a Scottish court in the Netherlands, isn't

scheduled to begin before February.

The United States has said it won't allow sanctions to be lifted entirely until Libya has complied with other U.N. demands that call for Tripoli to cooperate with the court proceedings, pay compensation to the families if the men are convicted and demonstrate its renunciation of terrorism.

Spurred on by Libya, however, Namibia circulated a draft resolution last Wednesday on behalf of the 113-member Nonaligned Movement to lift sanctions entirely. Sanctions "should be lifted because Libya really met all its obligations towards the Security Council resolutions," Libyan Ambassador Abuzed Omar Dorda said.

Deputy U.S. Ambassador Peter Burleigh told the Security Council that he would veto the resolution. The United States is one of

five permanent council members with veto power.

"As far as the United States is concerned, Libya has not met all those requirements," Burleigh told reporters. "It's premature to make that assessment since we're still seven months away from the trial."

Countries perceived as more sympathetic to Libya conceded that forcing a vote on the resolution would be counterproductive.

"We believe that their draft resolution is something we can accept, but in order to avoid a veto, we are willing to discuss any other form of reaction from the council," said China's deputy U.N. ambassador, Shen Guofang.

British, French, Slovene, and Canadian diplomats all said they backed the American initiative. Diplomats were meeting late Wednesday to discuss the American draft and some

suggested an amended version could be adopted by consensus in a matter of days.

"Clearly a majority view was the wish to keep the sense of progress going and not have an unholy row about it," said U.N. ambassador Jeremy Greenstock of Britain, which last Wednesday restored full diplomatic relations with Libya.

In Washington, the State Department did not pass judgment publicly on Britain's decision to revive relations with Tripoli, but ruled out similar action by the United States.

"The United States has national sanctions against Libya and Libya will have to meet our concerns or satisfy our concerns fully, thoroughly and definitively before we consider any further steps down the road in adjusting our relationship with Libya," deputy spokesman James Foley said.

Sierra Leonean passport and his followers will soon be given pardons as well.

## Peace accord signed in Sierra Leone, all hopeful

LOME, Togo (AP) — Formally ending eight years of one of the world's bloodiest civil wars, Sierra Leone's president signed a peace accord last week with the country's rebels, agreeing to share power and offer war criminals amnesty.

President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and Revolutionary United Front leader Foday Sankoh signed the deal in a solemn ceremony in Togo's capital of Lome following an overnight summit of regional leaders.

The agreement is the second in three years aimed at ending a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people. Many others have been maimed, kidnapped or raped and more than half of the West African country's 4.7 million people are displaced.

"I shall sign it as president of Sierra Leone, but more importantly I shall sign it for the thousands of children of Sierra Leone," said Kabbah.

Shortly before signing, Kabbah lifted high 2-year-old Maimouna Massira, whose right arm had been hacked off by rebel fighters. The girl clutched a teddy bear with her remaining arm.

"This is the product of war," Kabbah said to roars of agreement from the mainly Togolese and Sierra Leonean crowd in the Lome auditorium. "I hope we shall all learn from this and try to

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embrace peace."

Sankoh, clad in shiny white robes, was silent for most of the ceremony. But after the signing, he apologized for rebel war crimes.

"Let us try to forgive. We are asking for forgiveness. We need the support of everyone, especially our brother the president," Sankoh said.

Both leaders intently studied the peace agreements until moments before signing, which was on a raised stage.

The deal came after a flurry of talks in which late rebel demands surfaced and were ultimately withdrawn after intense pressure from the insurgents' foreign allies and other international mediators.

The presidents of Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Togo signed the accord as witnesses.

But questions remained as to whether the peace deal would be accepted by fighters and civilians. The United Nations said Wednesday it won't recognize the amnesty granted to rebels by Sierra Leone's peace deal for crimes

that seriously violated international law.

In Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, some residents celebrated in the streets by dancing, honking car horns, and draping white flags from car windows. Others, however, were more subdued, remembering the rebels' latest attack on Freetown in January, when at least 5,000 people were killed.

"It is one thing to consider a peace agreement and another thing to implement it," said Issa Kamara, a middle-aged business owner. "The rebels are unpredictable and I have my fears."

A peace deal in 1996 collapsed after several months when rebel and military forces toppled Kabbah's government in a coup. The bloodletting that followed was worse than at any time since the war began in 1991. Kabbah returned to power in March last year.

In a long expected move, Kabbah gave Sankoh amnesty. The rebel leader had been sentenced to death for treason last October. The president also gave him a

## WORLD BRIEFS

## THOUSANDS TURN UP TO BURY VICE PRESIDENT NKOMO

HARARE (IPS) — Zimbabwe's Vice President, Joshua Nkomo, was buried July 5 in the capital of Harare at a ceremony attended by thousands of mourners. Nkomo, who died on July 1 at age 82, was laid to rest at the Heroes Acre cemetery on the outskirts of Harare. Thousands of mourners were turned away from the site — reserved for those who fought for Zimbabwe's independence in 1980 — which was filled to capacity. Nkomo, the founder of modern-day Zimbabwe, entered politics in 1947 when he was elected president of the African National Congress (ANC). During his political career, spanning over 50 years, Nkomo fought for equality in this southern African country of 12.5 million people. "Nkomo fought for the oneness of our people," President Robert Mugabe told mourners.

## LAWMAKERS URGED TO ADDRESS WATER SCARCITY, POPULATION

WASHINGTON (IPS) — Health and environmental experts are urging policymakers to heed the impact of population density and fresh-water scarcity on the spread of disease. "Where water is scarce, institutions weak, and population growth rapid, the risks for disease are especially acute," said Robert Engelman, director of the Population and Environment Program at Population Action International, a Washington-based research and advocacy group. The warning comes on the heels of a World Health Organization (WHO) report stating that infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, diarrhea, and tuberculosis are the world's biggest killers of children and young adults. Water serves as a vehicle for the spread of cholera, giardia and cryptosporidium, according to Mary Wilson, assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School of Public Health. "Shortages of fresh water, crowding and poor sanitation can lead to an increase in waterborne infections," said Wilson, who recently briefed U.S. lawmakers on the issue.

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