

Liberians thank Nigerian chief for peace help

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria received a hero's welcome in Liberia on Monday, walking through the country's new leader through cheering crowds celebrating a peace deal forged largely with Nigerian military muscle.

Tens of thousands came out to see him, hanging off second-floor balconies and darting through his motorcade to scream, "We love you, Obasanjo!" and "Thank you, Obasanjo!"

"We want peace!" the crowd roared as Obasanjo walked in blue traditional robes through one stretch of Liberia's shelled and war-impooverished capital.

"You will have peace!" Obasanjo shouted back, waving alongside Liberian President Moses Blah.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and the region's top military power, played one of the largest roles of any nation toward ending Liberia's 14 years of blood-letting.

It was Nigeria, under Obasanjo, that gave Liberian President Charles Taylor a controversial offer of asylum, ushering Taylor into exile in the jungles of southern Nigeria on Aug. 11 and defusing a three-year rebel campaign against him.

Nigeria, likewise, took the lead in a West African peace mission, sending the first

1,500 troops into war-torn Monrovia to secure a cease-fire ahead of the Aug. 18 peace deal.

Blah, a former vice president due to turn over power to a transitional government in October, declared the Nigerian president "a savior for the people of Liberia."

At a state banquet marking his first visit since the peace deal, Obasanjo said, "In Africa, you don't stand and stare and wring your hands when the house of your neighbor or your brother is on fire."

"You do everything humanly possible to put out the fire," Obasanjo said. "That's what we've done."

Obasanjo also noted

Liberia peace efforts "have a long way to go."

That proved true shortly, when word came that rebel fighters had attacked government officials scouting out the city's formerly rebel-held port for a possible visit by Obasanjo and Blah.

Fighters in four pickup trucks surrounded the government vehicle, smashing its windows and wounding one man inside, authorities said.

Rebels held the port during two months of fighting this summer. While the two sides of the city have since been reunited, government officials still do not venture to the port.

The Nigerian-led peace mission now has about 2,300

troops on the ground, building toward a 3,250-member African force. Obasanjo called the number deployed so far "grossly inadequate." Earlier Monday, the U.N.

envoy to Liberia, Jacques Klein, urged the United States to keep troops here to help train what he said should be a 5,000-6,000-member (See Liberians, Page 15)

Amin's children in feud over inheritance

By Gabriel Packard
JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (IPS/GIN)—Dozens of the late Idi Amin's 54 children are arguing over who will inherit his fortune, says his second-eldest son, Kirunda Amin.

But Kirunda, speaking to the BBC, said that the disputes are not out of control and that he hopes that the family can resolve the matter

by following Islamic law.

"We shall rely on religious elders to distribute the wealth and choose the heir," he said.

Idi Amin—who died Aug. 16 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, of multiple organ failure—is reported to have had a personal fortune of millions of dollars stashed in Saudi banks. He also owned expensive cars and houses, including one in Uganda.

At least 22 of the children, many of whom live in the United States or Europe, have gone to Jeddah to visit their father's grave and to speak to one of Amin's 13 wives, Hajat Madina, about who will be heir to the estate, say reports in Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper.

An official from the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, established by Idi Amin while he was in power in Uganda, told the BBC that there was family conflict over the wealth but that the chil-

dren say they will follow Islamic law to resolve the matter.

"The council and the children have appointed a panel that will deal with the whole issue of inheritance," said the official.

Amin seized power in Uganda in 1971, and his eight-year reign is considered one of the bloodiest in Africa's history. An estimated 300,000 Ugandans were killed by his agents, and thousands more disappeared or were forced into exile.

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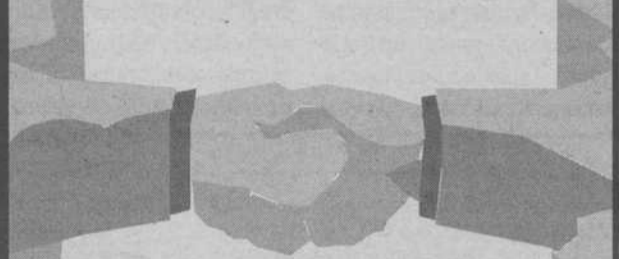
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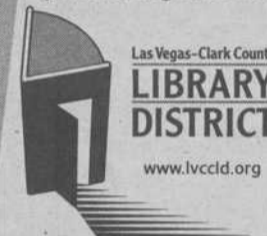
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Las Vegas Central City Intermodal Transportation Terminal Public Hearing and 30-day Comment Period
The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Central City Intermodal Transportation Terminal (CCITT). The Draft EA analyzes the potential impacts that may result from the construction and operation of the CCITT at one of two alternate locations in downtown Las Vegas. The EA also addresses the potential impacts of the 'No Action' Alternative as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

A public hearing will provide the opportunity to review these alternatives, provide input and ask questions. Please join us at the following meeting:

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2003
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Location: RTC Administrative Building, Room 108, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada

Comments are also welcome during the 30-day comment period. The comment period begins at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2003 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2003. Written comments should be submitted by fax to 676-1713 or by mail to: **RTC- Las Vegas Central City Intermodal Transportation Terminal 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Suite 350 Las Vegas, NV 89106**

Copies of the draft EA may be obtained at the RTC office at the address above, or through the RTC Web site www.rtcsonthernnevada.com.

For additional information, please call (702) 676-1500 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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