

10TH INTERNATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

TOPIC:

SUB-REGIONAL PRE-EMPTIVE MECHANISM FOR
CONFLICT RESOLUTION: LESSONS FROM
LIBERIA (1990 – 2000)

LT COL M MOHAMMED FSS psc(j)
NIGERIAN ARMY



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

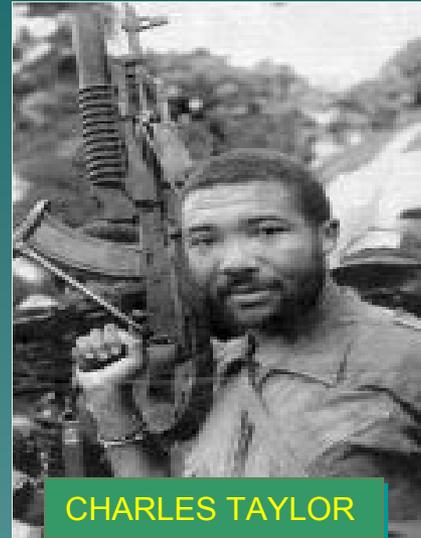


SCOPE

- ◆ BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA
 - ◆ WEST AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT POST LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ LESSONS LEARNED
 - ◆ WAY FORWARD
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT

- ◆ WHY THE CONFLICT
- ◆ SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
- ◆ A TEST CASE



CHARLES TAYLOR



SAMUEL DOE

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT

- ◆ WHY THE CONFLICT
- ◆ SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT

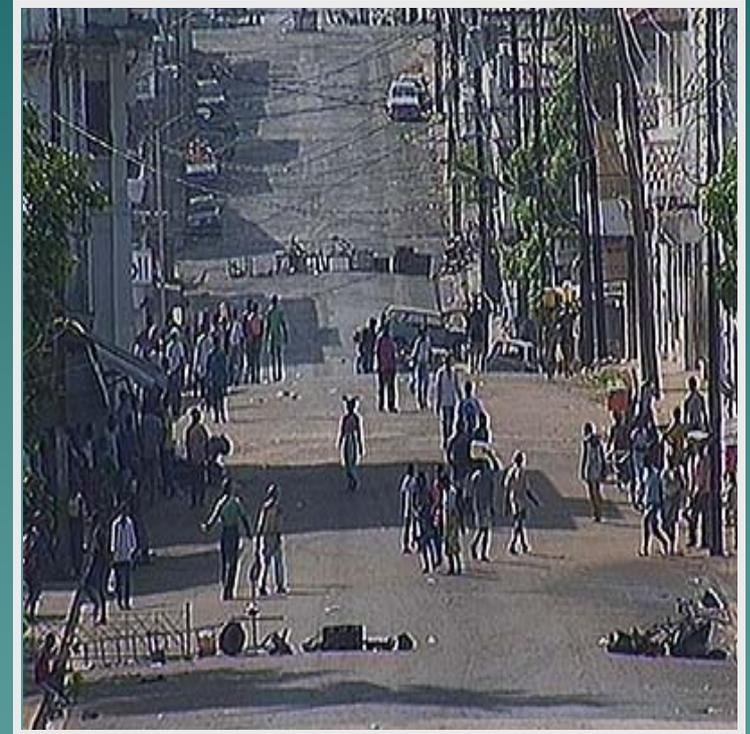


SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONFLICT

- ◆ It served as an important example of a new type of external intervention.
- ◆ It lead to the re-examination of the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of states.
- ◆ The conflict also re-affirmed that security, stability and development are inseparably linked.

ISSUES AGAINST THE CONCEPT OF NON-INTERFERENCE

- ◆ In a situation of anarchy, where government had ceased to function, there was no longer sovereignty to protect.
- ◆ When the scale of killings relegated all sensitivity to the issues of sovereignty to the secondary position, the only objective necessary will be to stop the carnage.



BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT

- ◆ WHY THE CONFLICT
 - ◆ SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ A TEST CASE
- 

THE CONFLICT PROVIDED A TEST CASE ON ISSUES OF:

- ◆ Sovereignty versus human suffering.
 - ◆ Sovereignty versus regional stability and its associated socio-economic degradation.
 - ◆ Desire to make change versus political will to embrace resultant changes.
- 

SCOPE

- ◆ BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA
 - ◆ WEST AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT POST LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ LESSONS LEARNED
 - ◆ WAY FORWARD
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA

- ◆ NECESSITY/MANDATE
 - ◆ SUB-REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS
 - ◆ ECOMOG OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS
 - ◆ LACK OF UNIFIED COMMAND
 - ◆ EFFECTS OF THE INTERVENTION
- 

NECESSITY AND MANDATE

- ◆ Request by Liberian Government
- ◆ Mandate included:
 - Maintaining law and order in Liberia
 - Protecting life and property
 - Maintaining essential services
 - Providing security to the Interim Administration
 - Observe elections
 - Conduct normal police duties

CONSEQUENCES OF SHIFT IN FOCUS

- ◆ Overstretch, due to the extent of territory that the force had to hold with respect to the number of troops available.
 - ◆ Nature of the terrain and effect of weather hindered conventional type of operations
 - ◆ The force had to react to irritating attacks and ambushes.
- 

SET BACKS TO ECOMOG OPERATIONS

- ◆ The force was hurriedly set up with a mandate which did not reflect the realities on the ground
 - ◆ The force moved in before clear terms of reference could be established
 - ◆ Immediately the force checkmated the game plans of contending parties, the looming protraction and complexities of the conflict and the increasing burden of peacekeepers became evident
- 

ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA

- ◆ NECESSITY/MANDATE
 - ◆ SUB-REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS
 - ◆ ECOMOG OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS
 - ◆ LACK OF UNIFIED COMMAND
 - ◆ EFFECTS OF THE INTERVENTION
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

SUB-REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS

- ◆ ECOWAS was ill prepared
 - ◆ Lack of political cohesion
 - ◆ Lack of trust in the ECOMOG force
- 
- A stylized, low-poly mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA

- ◆ NECESSITY/MANDATE
 - ◆ SUB-REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS
 - ◆ ECOMOG OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS
 - ◆ LACK OF UNIFIED COMMAND
 - ◆ EFFECTS OF THE INTERVENTION
- 

ECOMOG OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

- ◆ Hybrid Operation
 - ◆ Handling of Humanitarian Issues
 - ◆ No Buffer Zone
 - ◆ Positive Neutrality
 - ◆ Doctrinal Lessons
- 
- A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA

- ◆ NECESSITY/MANDATE
 - ◆ SUB-REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS
 - ◆ ECOMOG OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS
 - ◆ LACK OF UNIFIED COMMAND
 - ◆ EFFECTS OF THE INTERVENTION
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

LACK OF UNIFIED COMMAND AND CONTROL

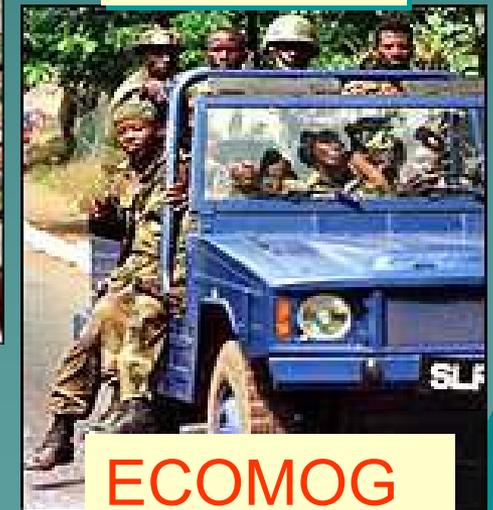
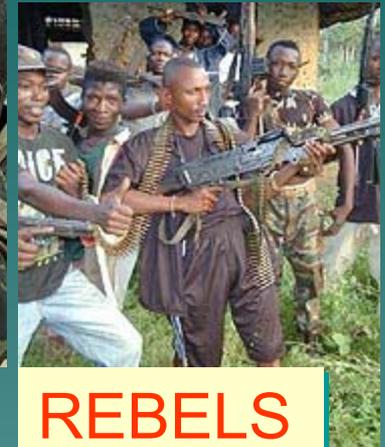
- ◆ Political control over contingents
 - ◆ High level of mistrust
 - ◆ Differences in operational interests
 - ◆ No clearly defined line of communication between the FC and ECOWAS Secretariat.
 - ◆ Inappropriate organizational structure
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA

- ◆ NECESSITY/MANDATE
 - ◆ SUB-REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS
 - ◆ ECOMOG OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS
 - ◆ LACK OF UNIFIED COMMAND
 - ◆ EFFECTS OF THE INTERVENTION
- 
- A stylized, low-poly mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

EFFECTS OF ECOMOG INTERVENTION

- ◆ Blurring of line of communication between conventional and irregular armies.
- ◆ Tenuous control over the field forces
- ◆ Militarized form of regionalism



SCOPE

- ◆ BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA
 - ◆ WEST AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT POST LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ LESSONS LEARNED
 - ◆ WAY FORWARD
- 

WEST AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT POST LIBERIAN CONFLICT

- ◆ New Security Architecture
 - ◆ Institutionalization of ECOMOG
- 
- A stylized, dark teal silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

◆ STRUCTURE

- Mediation and Security Council
 - Defence and Security Commission
 - Council of Elders
 - Early Warning Observatory and Monitoring Centres
 - ECOMOG standby forces
- 

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

◆ CONFLICT MONITORING CENTRES

- Banjul
 - Cotonou
 - Monrovia
 - Ouagadougou
- 

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ECOMOG

- ◆ Establishment of standby Brigade
 - ◆ Envisaged roles for the institutionalized ECOMOG
 - ◆ Related issues to the institutionalization
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide showing a range of stylized mountains in various shades of teal and blue, extending from the bottom right towards the center.

RELATED ISSUES TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION

- ◆ The need to articulate the criteria for mandating military intervention
 - ◆ The importance of distinguishing between keeping and enforcing peace
 - ◆ The danger of the force becoming a defence pact for the protection of local autocrats
- 

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ECOMOG

- ◆ Establishment of standby Brigade
 - ◆ Envisaged roles for the institutionalized ECOMOG
 - ◆ Related issues to the institutionalization
 - ◆ Proposed use for the new ECOMOG
- 
- A decorative graphic of a teal mountain range is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

PROPOSED USE FOR NEW ECOMOG

- ◆ Aggression or conflict within a member state
 - ◆ When there is conflict between 2 or more member states
 - ◆ Internal conflicts that threaten to trigger:
 - Humanitarian disaster
 - Pose serious threat to sub-regional peace and security
 - Serious and massive violation of human rights
 - When there is overthrow or attempted overthrow of government
 - ◆ Any situation that the council deems appropriate
- 

SCOPE

- ◆ BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA
 - ◆ WEST AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT POST LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ LESSONS LEARNED
 - ◆ WAY FORWARD
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

LESSONS LEARNED

- ◆ Legal Imperatives
 - ◆ Warning Methodologies
 - ◆ Risk Identification
 - ◆ Regional shift from argument to consensus
 - ◆ Difficulty of Securing Commitment
- 

DIFFICULTY OF SECURING COMMITMENT

- ◆ Characteristics of the warlord's formations:
 - Easy access to light weapons and small arms
 - The warlords had little by way of political organization or agenda or compelling motivation to seek peace. The war was its justification.
 - The low cost of entry and their own lack of internal ideological coherence posed the danger of splintering and thus the consequent proliferation of warlord factions

SCOPE

- ◆ BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ ECOMOG INVOLVEMENT IN LIBERIA
 - ◆ WEST AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT POST LIBERIAN CONFLICT
 - ◆ LESSONS LEARNED
 - ◆ WAY FORWARD
- 
- A stylized, teal-colored mountain range graphic is located in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

WAY FORWARD

- ◆ The need for Security Sector Reform
 - ◆ Renewed focus on Peacekeeping and Development Policies
 - ◆ The need to involve civil societies and external actors in managing conflict in West Africa.
- 

SUMMARY

- ◆ **Intervention in Liberia was done under ad hoc arrangement**
- ◆ **Glaring difficulties experienced by ECOMOG were examples of challenges that can confront regionally based peacekeeping initiatives**
- ◆ **When an umbrella organization is unable to provide the needed support for the deployed forces, this might result in tenuous control.**

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

- ◆ **The consequence of the conflict was the redefinition of the concepts of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of member states of ECOWAS**
 - ◆ **The need for the establishment of early warning mechanism**
 - ◆ **Regional shift from argument to consensus on issues of peace and security**
 - ◆ **Difficulty of securing commitment**
- 