

## Lesson Plans on Sierra Leone's Blood Diamond Path

### Day 5:

#### **Standards – Geography**

**Content Standard 4: The student will analyze the world's peoples and cultures in the context of the human systems in the Eastern Hemisphere.**

Item 6: Integrate visual information to explain patterns of global economic interdependence and world trade focusing on the concepts of imports and exports, supply and demand, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and balance of trade.

**Content Standard 5: The student will analyze the interactions of humans and their environment in the Eastern Hemisphere.**

Item 1: Cite specific textual and visual evidence to describe the relationship between the distribution of major renewable and nonrenewable resources and evaluate how the three levels of economic activities (primary, secondary, and tertiary) contribute to the development of a country or region.

B. Reserves of valuable minerals responsible for South Africa's economic growth

Globalizing Standards

Geography –

Students recognize and understand their own and others perspectives.

- Students recognize and express their own perspective on situations, events, issues, or phenomena, and identify the cultural, social, economic, political, geographical, and historical influences that inform that perspective.
- Students explore and describe how geopolitical differences, as well as access to knowledge, resources, and technology, affect the options, choices, and quality of life of people around the world.

Students will gather information about conflict diamonds by reading, and viewing video clips about conflict diamonds.

Students will develop a point of view (perspective) and act as a news reporter to deliver information about conflict diamonds from different perspectives. They may adopt the perspective of straight news, editorial, etc. The piece may be from the view point of the miners, the diamond traders, government officials, children, etc, but must be factually based. Students will make a digital recording of their report and air it on the in school network.

Explain what "Blood Diamond" means?

**conflict diamond** (also called a **converted diamond**, **blood diamond**, **hot diamond**, or **war diamond**) refers to a diamond mined in a war zone and sold to finance an [insurgency](#), invading army's war efforts, or a [warlord's](#) activity, usually in [Africa](#)<sup>[1]</sup> where around two-thirds of the world's diamonds are extracted.<sup>[2]</sup>

[http://wiki.ask.com/Blood\\_diamond](http://wiki.ask.com/Blood_diamond)

Teacher will gather information from these facts and from other materials to explain to the students about "Conflict or Blood Diamonds."

Inform students they are reporters who will watch some videos. Remind students that reporters are guided by 5 questions as key points in gathering information. Ask students to say what they are: Who, What, Where/When, Why, How? Have students to write the 5 question words in their spiral or on a sheet of paper in a straight line. Tell students to leave a half page between each word. Students can jot down observations from the videos that apply to the various questions.

Ask students to consider the following as they watch the various videos:

“Where do diamonds come from?”

“Are children involved?”

“What kinds of equipment do the people have to find the diamonds?”

“What are the living conditions like?”

(There are other questions the teacher can come up with for the students to think about as they watch the videos.)

Show 5 YouTube videos: [Teacher may have other YouTube videos he/she may want to show.] [Teacher may want to show the YouTube videos in a different order, too.]

#1 = “*Looking for Diamonds in Sierra Leone*” (1.30 minutes; September 2, 2007)

#2 = “*Blood Diamonds – Sierra Leone*” (8 minutes; January 31, 2008)

#3 = “*The Truth Behind Africa’s Conflict Diamond*” (3.46 minutes; November 2008)

#4 = “*Diamond Mining Village*” (1.52 minutes; May 6, 2010)

#5 = “*Sierra Leone Diamond Mines*” (3.00 minutes; May 1, 2009)

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Facts for the Teacher: Teacher will gather information from these facts and from other materials to explain to the students about “Conflict or Blood Diamonds.”

(A) February 11, 2009 5:38 PM

## **Facts About Blood Diamonds**

By Melissa McNamara

(CBS) Sierra Leone's traffic in diamonds has left a trail of carnage. While they may seem a symbol of happiness, the reality of the gems is far from that.

What are conflict diamonds?

Conflict or blood diamonds are mined in a war zone and sold, usually clandestinely, in order to finance an insurgent or invading army's war efforts.

How can I ensure a diamond is conflict-free?

The [Kimberley Process](#) is a joint government, international diamond industry and civil society initiative established in 2002 to stem the flow of conflict diamonds - rough diamonds that are used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments. The trade in these illicit stones has contributed to devastating conflicts in countries such as Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone.

Click [here](#) for states and regional economic integration organizations who have met the minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

How many conflict diamonds are there?

The diamond industry estimates that conflict diamonds represent 4 percent of the total trade in rough diamonds. Others have estimated that conflict diamonds could amount to as high as 15 percent of the total trade.

In 2001, the diamond industry produced rough diamonds with a market value of \$7.9 billion. At the end of the diamond chain, this was converted into jewelry worth \$54.1 billion.

What areas of the world are affected by conflict diamonds?

The fighting that is fueled by the trade in conflict diamonds has been relegated to a few Central and West African countries. Many of these countries have diamonds that are easier to mine and thus more readily available to smuggle, according to the Kimberly Process.

To learn more about conflict diamonds:

- To find out the latest news and information on conflict diamonds, you can refer to the [World Diamond Council](#).
- Click [here](#) to read more about Sierra Leone in a CBSNews.com interactive.
- You can read about the [Diamonds Are for Never](#) campaign here.
- The [The Sierra Leone Global Education Partnership Project](#) has additional resources.

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Facts for the Teacher (B):

### **Blood (conflict) diamond facts,**

<http://interestingdiamondfacts.blogspot.com/2010/10/blood-conflict-diamond-facts.html>

Blood diamonds are often also called conflict diamonds and this term became widely known thanks to the Bond movie "Die Another Day" that had its scenario based on smuggling conflict diamonds, and afterwards on excellent movie called "Blood Diamond" starring Leonardo Di Caprio.

Official UN definition of conflict diamond is "diamond that originates from areas controlled by forces or factions opposed to legitimate and internationally recognized governments, and are used to fund military action in opposition to those governments, or in contravention of the decisions of the Security Council".

Blood diamond is any diamond that originates from the war affected area. Many rebels have used blood diamonds to fund their cause and they used civilian population (mostly children) to work for them as slaves and prisoners. These children had been taken from their families and forced to dig alluvial pits just so they could get their hands on precious diamonds, and thousands of children in Africa were suffering because of this precious gemstone.

The especially affected was Sierra Leone where the trade of blood diamonds (which were used for funding rebel armies) lead this poor country to a bloody civil war. For many years the world only watched brutal RUF which used blood diamonds to fund their paramilitary causes were finally stopped by more than 17 000 foreign troops that disarmed them and gave this country a chance for new beginning. Soldiers of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) practiced inhuman methods of conduct as young girls starting at the age of 10 were raped into submission while boys were forced to execute their village elders and even

parents to cut them off from their "old family" and be part of their new rebel families.

In December of 2000, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the role of rough diamonds in furthering the conflicts in specific areas in Africa and the General Assembly came up with a resolution aiming to sever the connection between the illegal sales of diamonds and wars in concerned areas. With this resolution in place, countries that buy diamonds from Africa were forced to become more aware of the illicit trade as international sanctions were put in place. In addition to these sanctions, individual countries set up their own methods and processes to curb the practice of trading conflict diamonds. The idea is that if no one will buy, then no one will sell. People who take advantage of conflict diamonds would have no market and thus the practice would stop.

Number of conflict diamonds has lately decreased significantly but conflict diamonds still exist. Many diamond buyers would like to ensure that the diamond(s) that they are buying is conflict free diamond. But there are no visual differences between conflict diamonds and conflict free diamonds. This is the reason why you need to ask diamond jeweler to provide you the adequate documentation (diamond certificate) from which you can see the origin of the diamond you plan to purchase, so you can be sure that this diamond doesn't come from the areas affected with civil wars.

### Facts for the Teacher (C):

#### **What are Blood Diamonds?, <http://www.diamonds-are-forever.org.uk/blood-diamonds.htm>**

Blood Diamonds, also known as Conflict Diamonds, are used in the illegal trading of diamonds to finance conflict, civil wars and human rights abuses in Africa. Profits from this illegal diamond trade in diamonds have been used by warlords and rebels in Africa to buy arms. The countries involved in the illicit trading of blood diamonds include Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

#### **The History of African Blood Diamonds - Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone is a country in West Africa which is bordered by Guinea on the north and Liberia on the south, with the Atlantic Ocean on the west of this African country. Between 1991 and 2000, Sierra Leone endured a devastating civil war. The major source of hard currency in Sierra Leone consists of the diamond mining. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone attempted to overthrow the government, and an illicit diamond trade was used to fund the war effort. These gems were referred to as African Blood Diamonds or Conflict Diamonds. The Civil War in Sierra Leone claimed over 75,000 lives and caused 500,000 to become refugees, and displaced half of the population of Sierra Leone (4.5 million people) to become displaced. From 1989 to 2003 Liberia, an adjoining country of Sierra Leone, was also engaged in a civil war and became the main route for exporting conflict or blood diamonds from Sierra Leone.

#### **History - The United Nations (UN) highlights the issue of African Blood Diamonds**

The United Nations identified the issue of African Blood Diamonds being used as a source of funding for the civil wars in Africa in 1998.



#### **History - Meeting in Kimberley, South Africa to discuss Blood Diamonds**

In May 2000 a meeting of the diamond producing countries of South Africa was convened in Kimberley, South Africa. The illicit trade in conflict or blood diamonds was discussed and how to halt the trade and a process of assuring buyers that diamonds had not been used to finance or contribute to the internal

violence in Africa.

### **Blood Diamond History - Banning the Trade in African Blood / Conflict Diamonds**

The trade in the Conflict or Blood Diamonds of Africa, including those from Sierra Leone, was curbed by the World Diamond Council on January 17 - 18 2001 when the the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) was created to:

- Implement an international certification system strictly regulating the export and import of diamonds
- Introduce legislation in all countries to accept only officially sealed packages of diamonds
- All diamond rough would be certified as coming from a non-conflict source.
- To bring pressure on countries to impose criminal charges on anyone trafficking in conflict diamonds
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The KPCS ( Kimberley Process Certification Scheme ) and its recommendations were given approval by the UN ( United Nations) on March 13, 2002. It was agreed that all diamond rough would be certified as coming from a non-conflict source.

### **Conflict / Blood Diamond History - Action by the US following UN resolutions**

The United States is the largest consumer of diamonds in the world. The United States has acted in accordance with the UN resolutions as follows:

- January 18, 2001: President Clinton issued Executive Order 13194 prohibiting the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone
- May 22, 2001: President Bush issued Executive Order 13213 prohibiting the importation of rough diamonds from Liberia
- July 29, 2003: Clean Diamond Trade Act (CDTA) implemented which states "As the consumer of a majority of the world's supply of diamonds, the United States has an obligation to help sever the link between diamonds and conflict and press for implementation of an effective solution."
- The CDTA US law requires that all US diamond retailers buy diamonds from manufacturers who have documentation warranting that the merchandise was obtained through legitimate channels

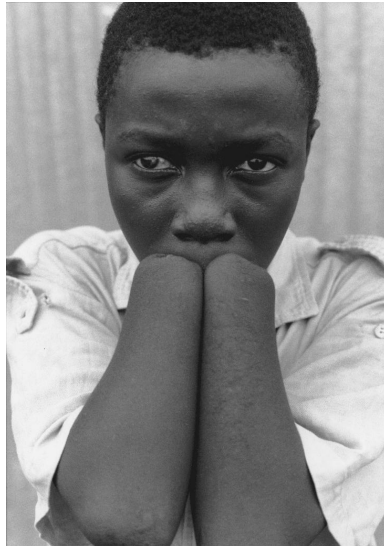
Canada has also passed legislation to control the import, export and transit of rough diamond in Canada.

### **Conflict History - The Trade in Conflict or Blood Diamonds continues...**

Despite resolutions, sanctions and laws the illegal trade in Conflict or Blood Diamonds continues. The illicit diamond trade is believed to fund armed conflict in the Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) in Africa and may finance terrorists groups such as al Qaeda, although this has not been proved.

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## Facts for the Teacher: (D)



<http://www.un.org/peace/africa/Diamond.html>

## General Assembly adopts resolution on "conflict diamonds"

### Crucial issue in fuelling wars

On 1 December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, unanimously, a resolution on the role of diamonds in fuelling conflict, breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict, as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts (A/RES/55/56). In taking up this agenda item, the General Assembly recognized that conflict diamonds are a crucial factor in prolonging brutal wars in parts of Africa, and underscored that legitimate diamonds contribute to prosperity and development elsewhere on the continent. In Angola and Sierra Leone, conflict diamonds continue to fund the rebel groups, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), both of which are acting in contravention of the international community's objectives of restoring peace in the two countries.

### What is a conflict diamond?

Conflict diamonds are diamonds that originate from areas controlled by forces or factions opposed to legitimate and internationally recognized governments, and are used to fund military action in opposition to those governments, or in contravention of the decisions of the

Security Council.

*"It has been said that war is the price of peace... Angola and Sierra Leone have already paid too much. Let them live a better life."*

Ambassador Juan Larrain, Chairman of the Monitoring Mechanism on sanctions against UNITA.

### How can a conflict diamond be distinguished from a legitimate diamond?

A well-structured 'Certificate of Origin' regime can be an effective way of ensuring that only legitimate diamonds -- that is, those from government-controlled areas -- reach market. Additional controls by Member States and the diamond industry are needed to ensure that such a regime is effective. These measures might include the standardization of the certificate among diamond exporting countries, transparency, auditing and monitoring of the regime and

Boy soldiers await demobilization.  
*Bo, Sierra Leone, 1998. UNICEF / HQ98-0578 /*  
*Giacomo Pirozzi*



new legislation against those who fail to comply.

*"Diamonds are forever" it is often said. But lives are not.  
We must spare people the ordeal of war, mutilations and death for  
the sake of conflict diamonds."*

*Martin Chungong Ayafor, Chairman of the Sierra Leone Panel of Experts*

## Fuelling wars

Rough diamond caches have often been used by rebel forces to finance arms purchases and other illegal activities. Neighbouring and other countries can be used as trading and transit grounds for illicit diamonds. Once diamonds are brought to market, their origin is difficult to trace and once polished, they can no longer be identified.

### Who needs to take action?

Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, diamond traders, financial institutions, arms manufacturers, social and educational institutions and other civil society players need to combine their efforts, demand the strict enforcement of sanctions and encourage real peace. The horrific atrocities in Sierra Leone and the long suffering of the people of Angola have heightened the international community's awareness of the need to cut off sources of funding for the rebels in order to promote lasting peace in those countries; such an opportunity cannot be wasted.

## Legitimate Diamonds ► Peace ► Development

- Controls on conflict diamonds cut off sources of funding for rebels, help shorten wars and prevent their recurrence.
- Peace in diamond producing regions will bring about the potential for economic development and tax revenue for building infrastructure as legitimate mining ventures increase.

The international diamond industry is already taking steps to respond, such as the adoption by the World Diamond Congress, Antwerp, 19 July 2000, of a resolution which, if fully implemented, stands to increase the diamond industry's ability to block conflict diamonds from reaching market. Other efforts include the launching, at the initiative of African



diamond-producing countries, of an inclusive, worldwide consultation process of Governments, industry and civil society, referred to as the Kimberly Process, to devise an effective response to the problem of conflict diamonds.

### What is the United Nations doing?

The tragic conflicts in Angola and Sierra Leone, fuelled by illicit diamond smuggling, have already led to action by the Security Council. Under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, targeted sanctions have been applied against UNITA in Angola and the Sierra Leone rebels, including a ban on their main source of funding -- illicit diamonds. Diamond sanctions have also been applied against Liberia but are not yet in effect.

## ANGOLA:

Following UNITA's rejection of the results of the United Nations monitored election in 1992, the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, adopted resolution 864 of 15 September 1993, imposing an arms embargo along with petroleum sanctions against UNITA and establishing a Sanctions Committee consisting of all the members of the Council to monitor and report on the implementation of the mandatory measures.



This UNITA soldier, here awaiting demobilization, was recruited at age 11.

*Vila Nova, Angola, 1998.  
UNICEF / HQ96-008 /  
Giacomo Pirozzi*

Following the signing of the 1994 Lusaka Protocol, UNITA refused to comply with its terms. In response to UNITA's refusal to disarm and implement the Lusaka Protocol, the Security

Council adopted resolution 1127 of 28 August 1997, which imposed mandatory travel sanctions on senior UNITA officials and their immediate family members. A year later, the Security Council adopted resolution 1173 of 12 June 1998 and resolution 1176 of 24 June 1998, prohibiting the direct or indirect import from Angola to their territory of all diamonds not controlled through the Certificate of Origin issued by the Government of Angola, as well as imposing financial sanctions on UNITA.

By resolution 1237 of 7 May 1999, the Security Council established an independent Panel of Experts to investigate violations of Security Council sanctions against UNITA. Following the publication of the Panel's report (document S/2000/203), the Security Council adopted resolution 1295 of 18 April 2000, by which the Panel's recommendations were taken up and a "Monitoring Mechanism" was established to collect additional information and investigate any relevant leads regarding sanctions violations, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the measures imposed on UNITA. The five expert members were its Chairman, Ambassador Juan Larrain (Chile), Christine Gordon (United Kingdom), James Manzou (Zimbabwe), Ismaila Seck (Senegal) and Ambassador Lena Sundh (Sweden). The Mechanism submitted its report to the Committee on 20 December 2000 (S/2000/1225). By resolution 1336 (2001), the Security Council extended the mandate of the Monitoring Mechanism for a period of three months. On 20 February 2001, the Security Council held an open meeting to discuss the report of the Monitoring Mechanism.

## SIERRA LEONE:

In July 1999, following over eight years of civil conflict, negotiations between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front led to the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement under which the parties agreed to the cessation of hostilities, disarmament of all combatants and the formation of a government of national unity. The United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) helped facilitate the negotiations. In resolution 1270 of 22 October 1999, the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to help create the conditions in which the parties could implement the Agreement. Subsequently, the number of personnel were increased and tasks to be carried out by UNAMSIL adjusted by the Council in resolutions 1289 of 7 February 2000 and 1299 of 19 May 2000, making UNAMSIL the largest peacekeeping force currently deployed by the United Nations.

Following international concern at the role played by the illicit diamond trade in fuelling conflict in Sierra Leone, the Security Council adopted resolution 1306 on 5 July 2000 imposing a ban on the direct or indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone not controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through a Certificate of Origin regime. An arms embargo and selective travel ban on non-governmental forces were already in effect under resolution 1171 of 5 June 1998.

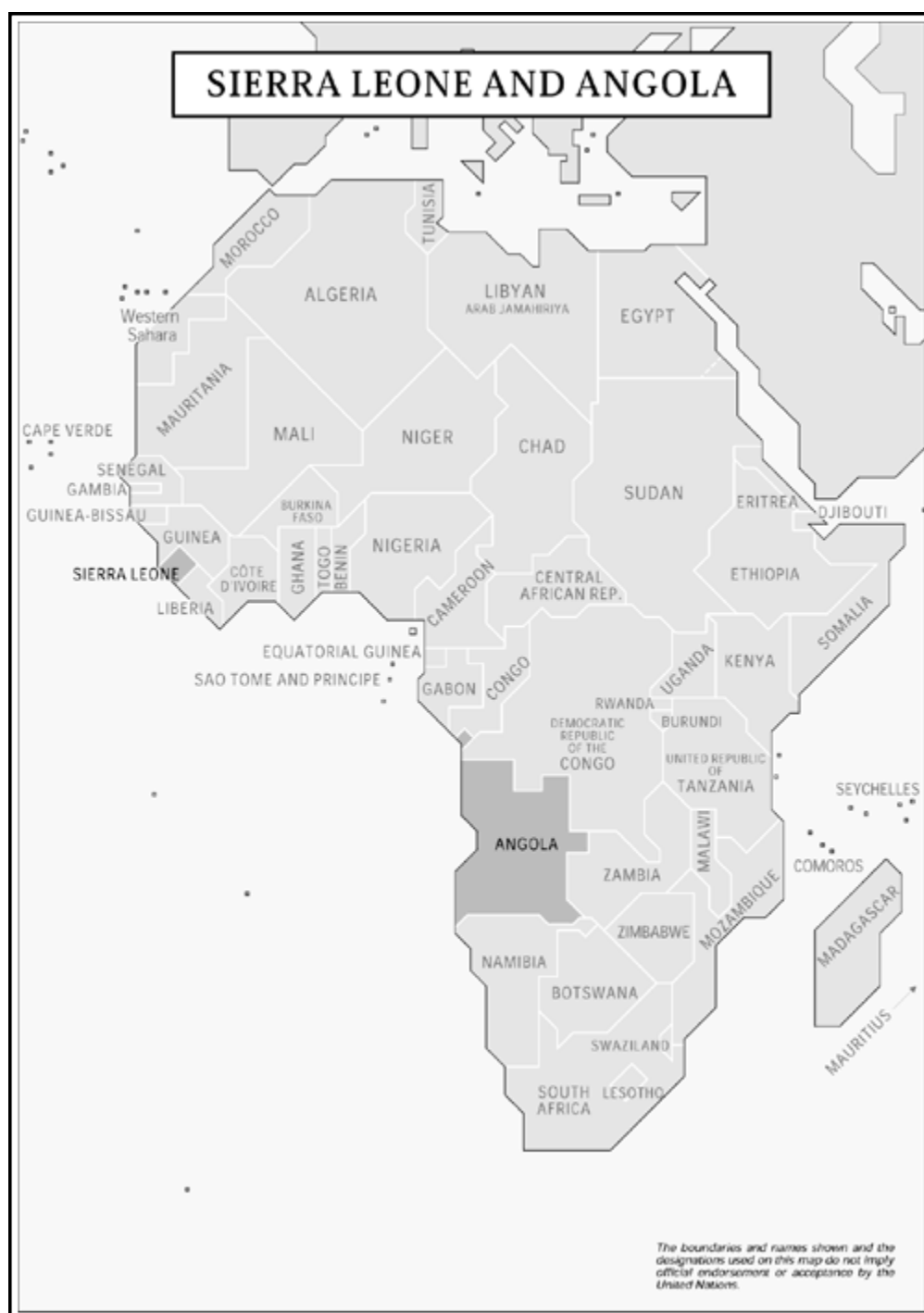
On 31 July and 1 August 2000, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning

Sierra Leone, presided over the first ever exploratory public hearing by the Security Council in New York. The hearing was attended by representatives of interested Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the diamond industry and other relevant experts. The hearing exposed the link between the trade in illicit Sierra Leone diamonds and trade in arms and related materiel. The ways and means for developing a sustainable and well-regulated diamond industry in Sierra Leone were also discussed.

As called for by resolution 1306 of 5 July 2000, the Secretary-General, on 2 August 2000, established a Panel of Experts, to collect information on possible violations of the arms embargo and the link between trade in diamonds and trade in arms and related materiel, consider the adequacy of air traffic control systems in the West African region for the purpose of detecting flights suspected of contravening the arms embargo, and report to the Council with observations and recommendations on ways of strengthening the arms and diamonds embargoes no later than 31 October 2000. The Chairman of the Panel was Martin Chungong Ayafor (Cameroon). The other members were Atabou Bodian (Senegal), Johan Peleman (Belgium), Harjit Singh Sandhu (India) and Ian Smillie (Canada). The Panel submitted its report to the Security Council on 19 December 2000 (S/2000/1195). On 25 January 2001 the Security Council, at its 4264th meeting, considered the report of the panel of experts.

## **LIBERIA:**

Following the findings presented in the Sierra Leone Panel of Experts' report that the illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone could not be conducted without the permission and involvement of the Liberian government officials, and that the Government of Liberia was actively supporting the RUF at the highest levels, the Security Council adopted resolution 1343 of 7 March 2001. By this resolution, a new Sanctions Committee of the Security Council was established, an arms embargo was re-applied and a Panel of Experts was mandated for a period of six months. In addition, the resolution indicated that if the Government of Liberia does not meet the demands specified by the Security Council within two months, all States would be mandated to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect import of all rough diamonds from Liberia, whether or not such diamonds originated in Liberia, and a selective travel ban would be imposed.



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