



PRESS RELEASE

Ref No UNAMSIL/PIO/PR/220/2004

Date: 28 February 2005

UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT FREETOWN

Freetown, Sierra Leone – United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Louise Fréchette will visit Freetown on Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 March this week. Her mission is being undertaken to emphasize the Secretary-General's and United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in the Organization's peace operations.

While in Freetown, the Deputy Secretary-General will meet with national and international stakeholders who manage issues related to sexual exploitation and abuse, UNAMSIL (United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone) Force Commander, Major-General Sajjad Akram and other senior military personnel, and UNAMSIL staff members. On Thursday, she will pay a courtesy call to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah at his official State Lodge residence during which they will discuss issues relevant to the Mission and Sierra Leone. Later in the day, she will host a press conference at UNAMSIL's Mammy Yoko Headquarters.

She will be accompanied by Military Adviser in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Lieutenant-General R. K. Mehta, among other senior officials.

Ms. Fréchette's visit to Sierra Leone will be the second leg of her mission to United Nations peace operations in West Africa. She will be in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on Monday 28 February and Tuesday 1 March and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March.

Prior to assuming her duties as Deputy Secretary-General on 2 March 1998, Ms. Fréchette had a distinguished career with the Government of Canada, serving both in the Foreign Service and as a Cabinet member. Immediately before joining the United Nations, from 1995 she was Deputy Minister of National Defence. Other posts she held include as Associate Deputy Minister in the Department of Finance, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1992 to 1995.
