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PRESS RELEASE

NEW SRSG FOR SIERRA LEONE ARRIVES



Mr. Mwakawago (Left) being welcomed by Mr. Alan Doss

Freetown – The newly-appointed Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Sierra Leone, Tanzania-born Ambassador. Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago arrived Freetown yesterday evening from New York to head the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), which still remains the largest UN Mission in the world. Mr. Alan Doss who has been Officer-in-Charge of UNAMSIL and Director of Administration Mr. Steinar B Bjornsson received Mr. Mwakawago at the Lungi International Airport.

On arrival at UNAMSIL Mammy Yoko helipad Freetown, the SRSG was introduced to a cross section of UNAMSIL leadership including Section Chiefs.

Speaking to journalists at the helipad, Mr. Mwakawago said the timing of his appointment was “critical” as the UN still had “an important role to play to consolidate and sustain” the

peace in the country. He said, “a great deal has been done by my predecessor and I am here to continue”. The SRSG went on that “with team work, we can pull together and ensure the mission given to us by the international community is accomplished”.

On the situation in neighbouring Liberia and its impact on Sierra Leone, Mr. Mwakawago said the sub-regional dimension of the conflicts in West Africa was critical to Sierra Leone, saying it will be addressed at all levels and in all quarters.

Mr. Mwakawago was appointed on December 1, 2003 and replaces Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji who was named Nigeria’s Foreign Minister in July 2003.

Before his new appointment, the new SRSG had served as Tanzania’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He had also been, at various times, Minister in charge of several ministries in the Tanzanian government including ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Information and Culture, Labour and Manpower Development and Industry and Trade. He had also held a number of prominent positions in Tanzania Parliament.

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