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(UNAMSIL)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **UN SPECIAL ENVOY RECEIVES MONIES FOR PEACE FESTIVAL FROM COPRORATE SIERRA LEONE**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone, 14 November 2005*— As the United Nations move forward with preparations for its “*War Don Don Peace Festival*” to be held at the National Stadium on 26 November 2005, two corporate companies; COMIUM and Standard Chartered Bank on Tuesday, presented cheques of US\$10,000 each towards the venture while the British Council pledged to sponsor two local artists.

The cheques were received on behalf of UNAMSIL by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) Mr. Victor J. Angelo, at a short but impressive ceremony at the press briefing room at UNAMSIL’s Mammy Yoko headquarters in the capital Freetown.

In his statement, Mr. Victor Angelo, who is also the UNDP Resident Representative in Sierra Leone, said that, “The *War Don Don Peace*” Festival is about celebrating the success of the peace process in Sierra Leone... “we can say in confidence that there is a bright future for this country...” He said the festival would be done in close collaboration with the Sierra Leone government.

To the UNAMSIL staff members who have been engaged in the preparation of the Peace Festival, the DSRSG acknowledged that, “we should recognize people who go the extra mile to see that things are done correctly,” and noted also that the people of West Africa were industrious and deserved to be at the forefront in the development of Africa.

Presenting the cheque on behalf of COMIUM, the company’s Marketing Manager, Mr. Adel Taher, stated that the role which UNAMSIL had played in establishing peace in Sierra Leone was now benefiting the business community, and that COMIUM was proud to be associated with the UN and its activities.

The Managing Director of Standard Chartered Bank, Mr. Lamin Manjang, in his statement, said the festival was timely as it was coming when UNAMSIL would be pulling out of the country thereby signally that, “Sierra Leone is a country that is now ripe for investment and open for business”, adding that the peace festival would be part of image building for the country and that UNAMSIL had made “Sierra Leone one of the peaceful countries in Africa”.

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The Manager of the National Stadium, Omar Aziz said the Sierra Leone government always enjoyed cordial relationship whenever they partnered with UNAMSIL, and promised that the festival would be historic.