

A PAPER PRESENTED TO THE "ONE WORLD LINK" COMMITTEE
MEMBERS LEAMINGTON SPA BY BENSON TOM SMITH - CHAIRMAN
ONE WORLD LINK - BO DISTRICT - SIERRA LEONE

Mr Chairman, Committee members, on behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the One World Link of Bo, Sierra Leone, I bring you fraternal greetings.

The BO/Leamington Link having been launched at Rev.Neil Trainer's Residence in BO in April 1981 has gained grounds over the last three years. The Interim Committee consisted of Rev. Trainer as Chairman and Mrs P A C Kamara, former Principal of the Queen of the Roserary School, as Secretary.

Another Interim body was formed one year later (1982) and consisted of the Chairman, Mr B T Smith, Secretary, Mr J S Cooper and Treasurer, Mrs Rosetta Rogers. After adopting the constitution of the OWL/BO in July 1983, a constituted body was elected comprising of the following :

- (1) Chairman - Mr B T Smith (Ahmadiyya Sec.School,BO)
- (2) Vice-Chairman Mr Raymond James (Commercial School,BO)
- (3) Secretary - Mr J S Cooper (Queen of the Rosery School,BO)
- (4) Assistant Secretary - Mr A O Kauora (Madonna School,BO)
- (5) Treasurer - Mrs Odette Awada (OPA Nursery,BO)
- (6) Financial Secretary - Mr Prince Brim (Journalist,BO)
- (7) Organising Secretary - Mr A K Mensah (Ahmadiyya Sec.Sch.BO)

Membership of the OWL/BO comprises of six Secondary Schools, Eight Primary Schools, one Infant School and three organisations. The following schools, college and organisations are keenly interested in linking up with Schools, college and organisations in Leamington .

- (1) BD Government Sec.School (To be re-linked)
- (2) BO Teachers College
- (3) BO Teachers College Experiemental School
- (4) BO District Football Association
- (5) Milton Comprehensive Sec. School,BO

During the period under review the BO group of the Link has been engaged in a series of activities and exchange visits. There had been four (4) visits from Leamington and three (3) from Sierra Leone. Another visit from Sierra Leone is already planned. Among the activities we have undertaken are Public Lectures, Exhibitions, Video Shows, Football Matches, Drama and Cultural Nights. All these activities and visits have aided in a great way in advertising the link in Bo.

We are greatly thankful to the Sierra Leone Library Board for offering us a room to be used as a "RESOURCE CENTRE" for the furtherance of the link. Minimal funds had been generated at our end through activities, as highlighted earlier on, to enable us furnish this "Resource Centre". The funds raised so far are not adequate to achieve our aim. We would be very grateful if our friends in Leamington should come to our

aid by generating funds to enable us succeed in our venture.

This "Resource Centre", if completed, will serve as an instrument in informing the general public in BO District and Sierra Leone in general about our activities.

We would also be most grateful if our friends in Leamington would make it possible for us to run a "ONE WORLD LINK SHOP" where we could sell School materials, Second Hand Text Books, and old Clothes, simultaneously with the Resource Centre, to committee members as well as the general public in the BO District so that funds would be raised to run the day to day affairs of the Link in BO. I must be frank enough to say

Mr Chairman, that we have been highly impressed by the activities of the "THIRD WORLD SHOP" at the Oxfam Centre in Leamington. This example, I feel, is worth Emulating. In this regard, we are appealing to the Executive Committee of the Link in Leamington to provide us with the necessary incentives to make this our project a huge success.

With your kind permission, Sir, I would like to present on behalf of the one world Link group, Bo District, the following recommendations :

- (1) That a specific goal be set for a successful future running of the Link at both ends;
- (2) That gifts, aids etc. should be monitored through the the Executive Committee to the recipient School or organisations and that these gifts, aid etc. should be

presented in a ceremony. This would help in advertising the activities and achievements of the Link in Bo ;

- (3) That future exchange visits, on both sides, should be made by a non-teacher and/or a student;
- (4) That an exchange programme be introduced.
- (5) That aid, in one form or another, should be one of our objectives as no true friendship can foster very well without a small gift or token from one side to the other.

Now that I have presented to you these recommendations, Mr Chairman, I would also want to inform you that since the Link is now nearly 3 years old we shall register it formally with the Ministry of Social Welfare and also celebrate its 3rd Anniversary when we return.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to end this paper, by saying, on behalf of the one World Link - Bo, how grateful we are to the following who have made our visit to Leamington a big success in one way or the other :

- (1) The Chairman and his Councillors of the Warwick District for giving us a grand Civic Reception,
- (2) The Commonwealth Foundation for granting us 2 (two) Air Tickets,
- (3) The Sierra Leone Airlines for the same reason,
- (4) The Principals of Q R S and Ahmadiyya Sec. School and the OPA Nursing School Committee for granting leave to make this visit ,
- (5) The Chairman and Committee of OWL/Leamington for organising a programme for our visit,

- (6) Those person/persons who volunteered to lodge us,
- (7) And lastly but by no means the least the press for giving news coverage of our visit and those who I amy have forgotten to mention.

We very much appreciate our stay in Leamington and all that has been done for us during our stay by the Committee. We very much look forward to such future visits from either end.

Thanks,

B. T. Smith

Chairman