

Letter from Moussa Conteh (in Milton Keynes) to Geoff Gough and OWL dated 18th February 1998

I am sure you must have heard news of what has been happening in Sierra Leone, and wondering what I make of it, and how it would affect my plans. What has happened is very good and welcome news not only for me but for most people - I listen to the BBC World and African Service, and make telephone calls to friends and relations in Freetown and Bo. The Head of the Sierra Leone Methodist Church describe the situation as an abscess full of pus that was waiting to be incised.

The decision for the Peace Keeping Force to take Freetown was made when the junta was reneging on the agreement they had signed in Conakry, Guinea to hand over power on the 22nd of February. They had done the same with previous agreements.

The battle for Freetown started on Monday the 9th and was won on Friday the 13th. much to the relief of the residents. There were jubilations on the Streets to welcome the Peace Keeping forces. With the fall of Freetown most of the troops stationed in the provinces either surrendered or ran away.

The constitutionally elected President and Government is expected to be in place in a few weeks.

As I write two shiploads are expected in Freetown with food and drugs, people have returned to work and services are being restored. This is a story of human resilience and triumph and there is a surge of new hope, spirit, creating a positive feeling....