

(pa) SL Internal Political

(301)

FM FREETOWN
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 384
OF 301349Z DECEMBER 92
INFO PRIORITY ACCRA

TOP COPY
QUEST?

1. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENED ON MONDAY NIGHT.

2. WE DISCOUNT HOWEVER THE CLAIM THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON STRASSER AT KABASSA LODGE. THAT STORY HAS ITS ORIGINS IN AN INCIDENT THERE ON BOXING DAY, THUS. A MILITARY POLICEMAN, LT KEITA, TOOK A CONTINGENT OF ABOUT 30 SOLDIERS TO KABASSA LODGE TO PAY A FRATERNAL CALL ON STRASSER AS KEITA'S FORMER PLATOON COMMANDER.

ALL WERE ARMED AND MANAGED TO GET BEYOND THE CHECKPOINT AT THE BOTTOM OF JUBA HILL. SIERRA LEONEAN SOLDIERS REFUSED THEM ENTRY INTO THE LODGE GROUNDS. THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE KEITA CONTINGENT ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE NIGERIAN SOLDIERS DEFENDING KABASSA LODGE, WHO DISARMED THEM. KEITA WAS BROUGHT TO STRASSER WHO ALLEGEDLY TOOK OUT HIS PISTOL AND REPRIMANDED HIM. KEITA AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE PUT IN DETENTION.

3. THERE WAS NO GUNFIRE AT KABASSA LODGE ON MONDAY NIGHT. BENJAMIN HAS DENIED TO ME THAT THE BOXING DAY INCIDENT WAS CONNECTED WITH THE ATTEMPT.

4. A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS HAS JUST PASSED THE HIGH COMMISSION WITH PLACARDS SAYING ''DOWN WITH THE ACRM'' AND ''KILL THEM ALL IN PADEMBA ROAD.''

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