

091 LIBERIA (MISCELLANEOUS)  
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LIST OF PAPERS

FILE NO. 091 LIBERIA

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
1	H. L. Stimson	9/21/45	Sec. of State	Letter re: Road construction project Salala-Baila.
2	Sec. of War Sec. of War	11/10/45 1/30/46	Sec. of State Sec. of State	Letter re: Construction of project Salala-Baila Road (answer) Raymond Concrete Pile Co. Of N. Y. making surveys for cost.
3	Sec. of War	4/2/46	Sec. of State	Re: relative to the Liberian \$1,000,000 defense agreement.
4	Sec. of War	4/16/46	Sec. of State	Re: Request for info. of any developments relative to reestablishment of the internal air services in Liberia which Pan American Airways formerly operated under contract with W. Dept.
5	Sec. of War (FILED 091 Liberia - U.S. MILITARY REQUIREMENTS)	5/10/46	Sec. of State	Re: JCS considering U.S. Requirements for military rights in Liberia.
6	Sec. of War	5/21/46	Sec. of State	Re: use of Roberts Field, Liberia by French civil aircraft was dispatched. on 16 May and has been reced.
7	Sec. of War	12/24/46	Sec. of State	Re: Desirability of organizing a committee to formulate plans U.S. exhibit at the Liberian Centennial Exposition Demobilization - equip-Roberts Field.

*091 Liberia Miss-*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State

24 DEC 1946

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter of 4 December 1946 (IC 862.607) requesting my opinion on the desirability of organizing a committee to formulate plans for the United States exhibit at the Liberian Centennial Exposition. I have given careful consideration to your suggestion and feel that each interested government agency should nominate a representative to the committee so that the objectives outlined in your letter may be accomplished.

In accordance with its demobilization program, the War Department is closing out all agencies whose retention is not necessary in accomplishing the mission of the Army. Our remaining interest in Liberia is Roberts Field and it is planned to relinquish this facility to the control of the Liberian Government on 31 March 1947.

I have designated Lieutenant Colonel Edmund R. Goss, Plans and Operations Division, War Department General Staff, War Department Extension 4570, to represent the War Department on the proposed committee.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

SWNCC SECRETARIAT

- State Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Army Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Navy Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Ass't State Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Ass't Army Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Ass't Navy Member \_\_\_\_\_
- Executive Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
- Ass't Exec. Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
- State Adm. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_
- Army Adm. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_
- Navy Adm. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_
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- Army Member -----
- Navy Member -----
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- Ass't Navy Member ----- *L*
- Executive Secretary -----
- Ass't Exec. Secretary -----
- State Adm. Assistant -----
- Army Adm. Assistant -----
- Navy Adm. Assistant -----
- File -----

*091 Liberia  
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or as follows*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State

MAY 21 1946

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With reference to your letter of 14 May 1946, I am pleased to inform you that the War Department reply to your 23 April 1946 letter concerning the use of Roberts Field, Liberia, by French civil aircraft was dispatched on 16 May 1946 and, according to informal advice from the Department of State, has since been received.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

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OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF OF STAFF

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Army Member	.....
Navy Member	.....
Ass't State Member	.....
Ass't Navy Member	.....
Ass't Army Member	.....
Executive Secretary	.....
Ass't Exec. Secretary	.....
State Adm. Assistant	.....
Army Adm. Assistant	.....
Navy Adm. Assistant	.....
File	.....

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16 APR 1946

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*[Handwritten note]*

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter of 2 April 1946 (AV) in which the request is made for information of any developments relative to reestablishment of the internal air services in Liberia which Pan American Airways formerly operated under contract with the War Department.

The question of reestablishing army contract air service within Liberia has been carefully reconsidered, and since there is no military necessity for such an operation, it is felt that the War Department is unable to justify the continuance of the contract service in question. In view of the rapid demobilization of the Army Air Forces and in light of present military requirements, the War Department is not disposed to consider further any operations for which there is no clearly apparent military need.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

APR 19 1946



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STATE-WAR DEPARTMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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091 Liberia?  
MOC.

APR 2-1946

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter AF 882.20 Mission/1-3046 dated 23 March 1946, relative to the Liberian \$1,000,000 defense agreement.

Under the terms of Colonel McBride's 20 March 1942 letter to the Liberians, the United States offered to spend \$200,000 in the construction of "access roads" to areas required by the American defense forces in Liberia. Later, due to the diminishing military importance of "access roads," it was agreed that the United States would construct a road from Salala-Baila in lieu of the "access road" from Roberts Field to Fishermans Lake. Although the Salala-Baila road was originally considered an "access road" so that it might be constructed, it should be considered a permanent road for reasons of determining fulfillment of obligations to the Liberian Government, as it constitutes a vital link between other main roads constructed by the Monrovia Government and had little military significance.

With the cessation of construction activities on the subject road, the War Department has no further need or right to obligate or expend the estimated \$118,101.67 balance remaining of the funds originally provided by the President for this purpose. Such funds are, therefore, available to the President for re-allocation, which re-allocation is usually done on recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget. It is, therefore, suggested that you approach the Bureau of the Budget on the question of utilizing the funds for whatever purpose you deem appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

SWNCC	
Colonel A. D. Reid	<i>[Signature]</i>
Commo. B. L. Austin	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mr. R. E. Cox	-----
Colonel Schulgen	-----
Comdr. Richardson	-----
Mr. H. W. Moseley	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mr. J. P. Gardiner	-----
Lt. Col. V. F. Field	-----
Major H. W. Karbel	-----
1st Lt. T. W. Weiner	-----
Ens. F. Whiteside	-----
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MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. GARDNER	.....
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

JAN 1946

091 Liberia Misc.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to my letter of 21 September 1945 relative to the completion of certain road construction in Liberia, and to a conference between General Barker and Mr. Henderson of the Department of State on 13 October 1945, at which time it was agreed that the War Department would investigate the possibility of turning over the completion of construction of the Salala-Balla road to a civilian contractor.

The War Department is now advised by the Navy that its contractor, the Raymond Concrete Pile Company, presently operating in the Liberian area, can complete the road construction at a cost of \$970,000. This is not a purpose for which currently appropriated War Department funds can be expended, and since there is no apparent military justification for the continuance of this project, it is felt that the War Department cannot approach the President or Congress for funds.

Further, the War Department has expended over one million dollars pursuant to the United States-Liberia Defense Agreement, and considers the agreement fulfilled. War Department records show that to 1 January 1946 the following amounts have been expended:

a. United States-Liberia Defense Area Agreement of 31 March 1942 (military supplies and equipment; construction for Frontier Force; training expenses, etc.)	\$ 315,106
b. Road Construction	
Salala-Balla Project	648,766
Roberts Field-Robertsport Road	45,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,009,872</b>

FEB For purposes of comparison, it is estimated that the road construction alone, had it been undertaken by a civilian contractor, would have



STATE AND NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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required \$2,138,000. It appears, therefore, that Liberia has in terms of road construction accomplished received full benefit within the intent of the agreement. Inasmuch as the United States-Liberia Defense Agreement envisaged expenditures totaling one million dollars, the allotment of an additional \$970,000 at this time would be in the nature of an entirely new commitment. However, the remaining \$118,101.67 of the funds provided by the President for furtherance of the Liberian Agreement could be used in effecting a final settlement with the Liberian Government.

As you know, the War Department is making a strenuous effort to eliminate all activities which are not considered to be of absolute necessity, and to release the maximum possible number of personnel. Under the current criteria for discharge, approximately half of the American troops now in Liberia must be on a vessel homeward bound by 30 April. In view of the fact that we are now planning the inactivation of the Africa-Middle East Theater by 1 May 1946, it is necessary that all construction in Liberia cease.

In view of the above, the War Department has directed the termination of construction activities and recommends that the Liberian Government be informed that the United States Government considers commitment fulfilled.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War



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09, Misc  
Liberia

10 NOV 1945

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of 24 October 1945 which sets forth the views of the State Department with respect to construction of the Salala-Balla Road in Liberia.

At present the War Department is making a complete investigation of the cost of completing the road under private contract. The Raymond Concrete Pipe Company of New York states that it may be willing to accept a contract and at present representatives of that company are making a survey of the project. An estimate should be forthcoming shortly. I shall keep you informed of the action of the War Department in this matter.

It is pointed out, however, that no War Department appropriations are available for use in connection with the completion of the road, since it is not required in connection with any known military activity.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

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COL. McCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
LT. <del>COMDR.</del> SILFUSS	.....
MR. H. W. MOBELEY	.....
MR. J. P. GARDINER	.....
LT. <del>COMDR.</del> ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
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LT. COL. WEILFUSS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
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LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	.....
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1ST LT. E. SPITALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

The Honorable  
 Secretary of State  
 Dear Mr. Secretary:

In view of the recent Presidential directive calling for exacting review of expenditures, the War Department is re-examining all commitments.

In Liberia, U.S. military personnel are still engaged in construction of the Salala-Baila road project, which was undertaken under the 1942 U.S.-Liberia Defense Agreement. Completion of this road by military personnel would require the retention of this personnel in Liberia until early 1946. The War Department cannot justify further use of its personnel on this non-military project.

The attached analysis of the U.S. implementation of the U.S.-Liberia Defense Agreement indicates that as of 1 August almost \$994,000 in aid has been extended by the U.S. government to Liberia toward fulfillment of the \$1,000,000 commitment. It is believed that construction from 1 August to date, on which costs are not available, has increased the total aid to over \$1,000,000. The completion of the road, using military personnel would cost an estimated additional \$143,500 as of 1 August. It is pertinent to note that if the road construction had been performed by a civilian concern as specified by the 20 March 1942 letter, either considerably more than \$1,000,000 would have been expended to complete the same road construction already performed, or much less mileage would have been constructed if expenditures were kept within \$1,000,000.

If the State Department considers that the current commitment has not been completely fulfilled, two solutions appear possible:

- a. Grant of cash to the Liberians in lieu of further road construction.
- b. Additional road construction performed by a civilian concern.

The War Department has received a grant of funds from the President to cover expenses of a confidential nature in connection with fulfillment of the U.S. commitment to Liberia. These funds, of which \$179,000 remain unobligated, are available until 30 June 1946. If, in the opinion of State Department, such action is necessary to accomplish the fulfillment of the U.S. commitment, these funds could be used. It is believed that these funds are insufficient to permit completion of the entire Salala-Baila

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road by a civilian concern. The War Department does not possess any other funds with which civilian construction can be performed. Inasmuch as current information indicates that the U.S. will have a military requirement for rights to bases in Liberia, it is believed that the obtaining of Liberian agreement that the current U.S. commitment has been fulfilled, in consideration of a cash settlement if necessary, might be desirable prior to the undertaking of negotiations for future U.S. military requirements. The specific military requirements will be forwarded at a later date.

An expression of the views of the State Department would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

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ANALYSIS OF U.S. EXPENDITURES IN IMPLEMENTATION  
OF 31 MARCH 1942 U.S.-LIBERIA DEFENSE AGREEMENT UP TO  
1 AUGUST 1945

1. Colonel McBride's letters of 20 March and 31 March 1942, which amplify the 31 March 1942 U.S.-Liberia Defense Agreement are interpreted to commit the U.S. to furnish Liberia \$1,000,000 in aid on road construction, training of defense force and certain supplies, plus, in addition, certain road building equipment after certain road construction had been completed; i.e., \$1,000,000 plus certain road building equipment.

2. The following Expenses have been incurred by the U.S. in fulfillment of the of the \$1,000,000 portion of the commitment:

a. Defense of Liberia (incl Lend-Lease of Military supplies and equipment

Report DDA7B	\$176,312.00	
" DDA7A	46,335.00	
" DDA7	3,297.00	
Construction of Camp and Rifle Range for Frontier Force	6,550.00	
Pay & Subsistence of U.S. troops engaged in training Liberian Frontier Force	27,137.00	
Cost of shipment of above military supplies and equipment to Liberian Frontier Force	56,475.00	
TOTAL		\$ 316,106.00

b. Road Construction:

(1) Salala-Baila Project as of 1 Aug 45:		
Office and Engineering Expenses	1,064.00	
Field Supervision	8,845.00	
Soldier Labor	193,816.00	
Native Labor	16,364.00	
Materials & Fuels	88,520.00	
Transportation Materials & Fuels	22,130.00	
Estimated Depreciation of Equip- and total shipping costs	<u>152,000.00</u>	
Total:	\$482,739.00	
(2) Total cost of partial road construction between Roberts Field and Robertsport.	45,000.00	
TOTAL		\$ 527,739.00

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BROUGHT FORWARD (a, b, c):

\$ 843,845.00

c. Cash previously reported paid to Liberia  
(reported in SB letter to WD of 25 May 45)

150,000.00

GRAND TOTAL (a, b, c.)

993,845.00

3. The road building equipment that is to be turned over to the Liberian Government is still in the possession of CO, USAFIL. Its 1 August 1945 value is estimated at \$90,000. This equipment will be turned over when CO, USAFIL is ordered to discontinue construction. Its cost when new was \$202,867, and the estimated transportation costs of shipment to Liberia are estimated at \$90,000.

4. In addition, Pan American Airways constructed Ssafu Dock at an estimated cost of \$16,200, and a bridge between Roberts Field and Firestone Plantation at an estimated cost of \$24,000. These items are not included in paragraph 2, above, as there is doubt whether they are applicable to the U.S. commitment to Liberia.

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