

Report Dated August 6, 1990, From President George Bush to Hon. Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Consistent With Section 4(a)(2) of the War Powers Resolution, Relative to the Use of United States Armed Forces in Liberia

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, August 6, 1990.

Hon. THOMAS S. FOLEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Following discussions with congressional leaders, at approximately 5:05 a.m. (EDT) on August 5, 1990, a reinforced rifle company of approximately 237 marines was sent to provide additional security at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. At the same time, two helicopter extraction teams, including up to one rifle platoon each, were sent to two communications sites in Liberia to extract American citizens and bring them to U.S. ships in international waters off Liberia. Approximately 62 American citizens, and a limited number of foreign nationals, were removed from the Embassy and the two communications sites to the U.S. ships. Protective cover for these operations was provided by U.S. forces. These steps were taken for the purpose of protecting American citizens and were not intended to alter or preserve the existing political status quo or to make the U.S. presence felt in any way.

I am pleased to report that no hostilities were encountered and that the extraction of American citizens from the two sites was completed successfully, as was the insertion of the rifle company into, and evacuation of citizens from, the Embassy. The reinforced rifle company will remain at the embassy for as long as its presence is needed. Additional steps to protect American interests and to evacuate American or foreign nationals will be taken as necessary.

Our Embassy in Monrovia will continue to function and Ambassador Peter de Vos and continue to have as its principal task assistance to American citizens and the exercise of American diplomatic influence. The Marine presence does not indicate or constitute any intention on the part of the U.S. Government to intervene militarily in the Liberian conflict.

Because of my desire to keep Congress fully informed I wanted to share this information with you. I appreciate Congress' support in these actions to protect American citizens.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH.