



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Embassy Monrovia, Liberia



Embassy Monrovia

OIG conducted an inspection of Embassy Monrovia and noted that the United States had moved aggressively to take advantage of the end of Liberia's 14-year civil war by providing major support for efforts to assure peace and stability to Liberia's democratically elected government and the region. Embassy Monrovia functioned in a very difficult environment with few public services, inadequate office space and housing, insufficient resources, and precarious security conditions. To effectively

accomplish its mission, Embassy Monrovia needed additional resources in a number of specific areas.

The embassy had carefully and successfully balanced its efforts to assure effective delivery of U.S. support with the need to assure adequate security, and working and living conditions for its employees and their families. The staffing at Embassy Monrovia had doubled in the last two years in order to carry out a series of major assistance programs to help Liberia's recovery effort. Further growth is necessary but must be managed carefully.

U.S. government foreign assistance programs were helping to address sources of conflict and to rebuild the nation. Department of State-funded programs were making progress on reforming and rebuilding the security sector and had mechanisms in place, which should be improved, for monitoring their effectiveness.

Considerable progress had been made in rebuilding embassy management support capacity, but much more needed to be accomplished before the embassy could be described as fully recovered and operational. Construction of a badly needed new embassy compound was scheduled to begin in FY 2008. The rightsizing exercise conducted in preparation for this project was no longer current, and the embassy and the Department must urgently prepare the best possible estimate of future space needs before the construction plan is finalized.

Adoption requests had skyrocketed in Monrovia, and there was solid evidence that adoption agencies have submitted falsified documents in order to facilitate adoptions. Embassy resources were insufficient to address this growing problem.

OIG Report ISP-I-08-20A, Inspection of Embassy Monrovia, Liberia

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in Monrovia between September 27 and October 12, 2007. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. Both the report summary and the full report reflect the conditions reviewed during the fieldwork.