



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

Inspection of Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone



Embassy Freetown

OIG's inspection of Embassy Freetown found that as Sierra Leone's situation stabilized, and the new embassy compound (NEC) had provided secure, attractive, and functional office space, Embassy Freetown had been gradually increasing its presence and its services to pre-conflict levels. The key policy challenge for Embassy Freetown and the U.S. government was whether the United States and other donors could sustain the political, security, and economic support to maintain hope and stability in this war-ravaged country.

The NEC was constructed on an elevated site outside of Freetown that does not have a reliable source of water. The embassy and the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) are collaborating to explore a number of alternatives but had not identified a long-term solution to this problem at the time of the inspection.

Embassy Freetown housing did not meet Department of State standards, and this had a negative impact on staff morale. The deputy chief of mission residence and one apartment building were particularly unsuitable, and the OIG team recommended that these units be replaced.

The embassy's public diplomacy effort was seriously restricted during the civil war with the closure of the information resource center and suspension of most public programs. Much progress has been made since the restoration of normal operations in 2004, but some areas required additional attention.

OIG Report ISP-I-08-18A, Inspection of Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in Freetown between November 1 and 15, 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.