



Mail from Liberia during the civil war at the turn of the century

Dr. Marc Parren



Some of the key players

Samuel Doe



Charles Taylor



Ingeborg Karlander
Jesper Digsmedsgat. 13
30235 HALMSTAD
SWEDEN



Mr. Marc Parren
Silviculture and Forest Ecology Group
Department of Environmental Sciences
Wageningen University
P. O. Box 342
6700 AH Wageningen
The Netherlands
FAx: 31-317-478078

William Richard Tolbert Jr.

PAR AVION



The First Liberian Civil War

- 1989 Christmas Eve > National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) attack border posts in North-eastern Liberia
- Mid-1990 NPFL seizure most of the country & besieged Monrovia
- NPFL support from Libya, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire as a consequence of President Tolbert (1971-80) strong links with the francophone axis dominated by Côte d'Ivoire
- September 1990 the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sent in its Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG)
- ECOMOG first example in the world of a 'regional' peacekeeping force sent in to oversee the resolution of an internal armed conflict
- ECOMOG can be seen partly as a Nigerian (read anglophone) attempt to defend its regional profile



The First Liberian Civil War

Incoming ECOMOG cover posted 06 ap 1993 at Tamale arrived 22 ap 1993 Monrovia



Initially ECOMOG comprised some 4,000 troops Nigerian but also from Sierra Leone Ghana and The Gambia Later Guinea, Senegal, Mali and two non-ECOWAS countries Tanzania and Uganda





The First Liberian Civil War

ECOMOG cover posted during 1993 to 48 Engineer Regiment based at Teshie Camp, Accra

ECOMOG MAILS purple

Lettering 41x5 mm, outer 52x14 mm



ECOMOG MAILS black & purple

Lettering 43x6 mm, outer 50x14 mm

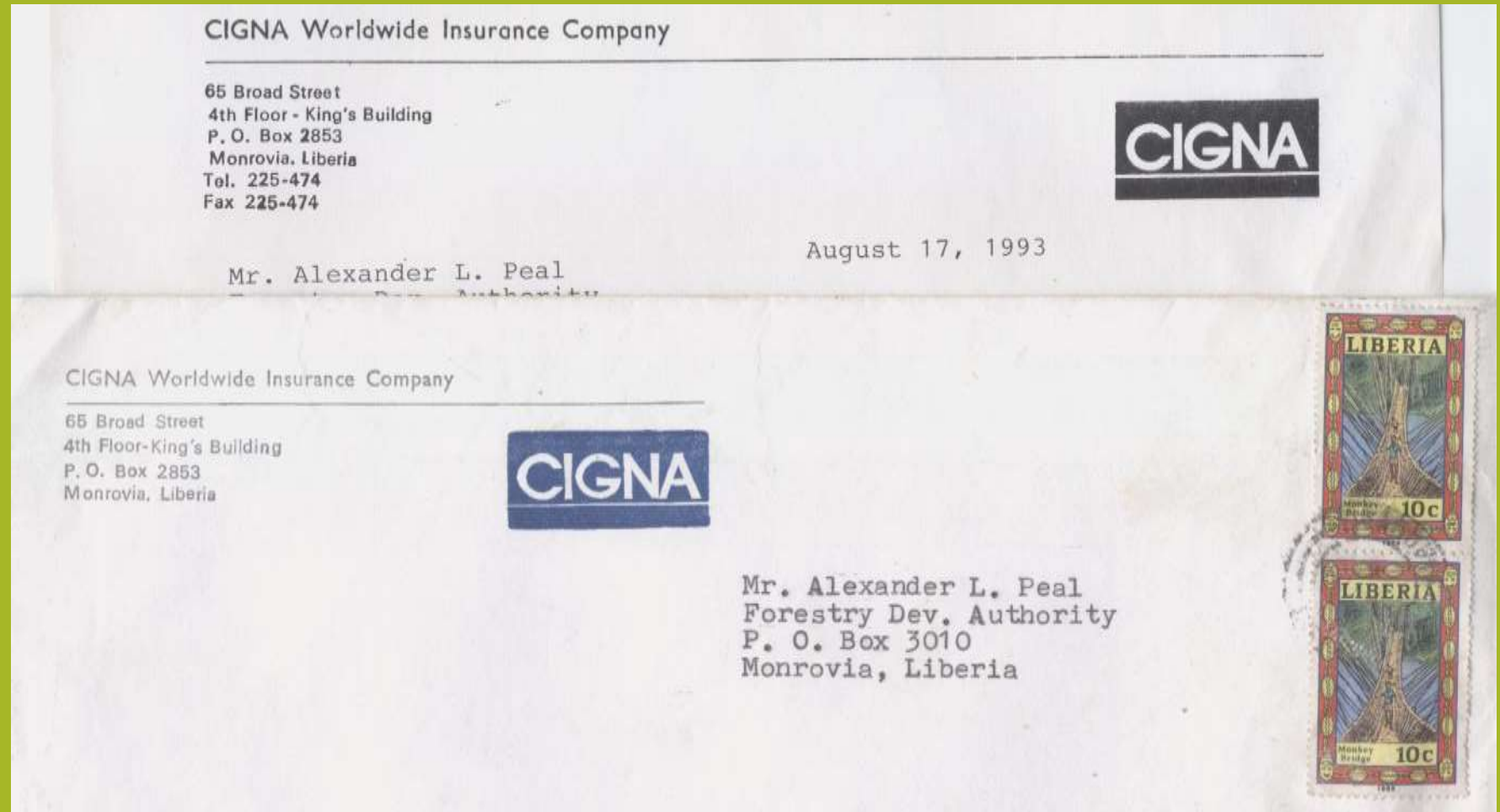




The First Liberian Civil War

Almost no civilian
mail seen between
1990-1993

Just one domestic
cover of August
1993





United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) sp 1993 – sp 1997

- Cotonou peace agreement brokered by ECOWAS in July 1993
- 4,000 additional ECOMOG troops, reaching 15,000
- Establishment UNOMIL to support ECOWAS and Liberian National Transitional Government to implement peace agreement
- Some 400 military observers and support staff required and arrived
- 22 countries contributed (Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, China, Congo, Czech Republic, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Sweden and Uruguay)
- Continued fighting seen



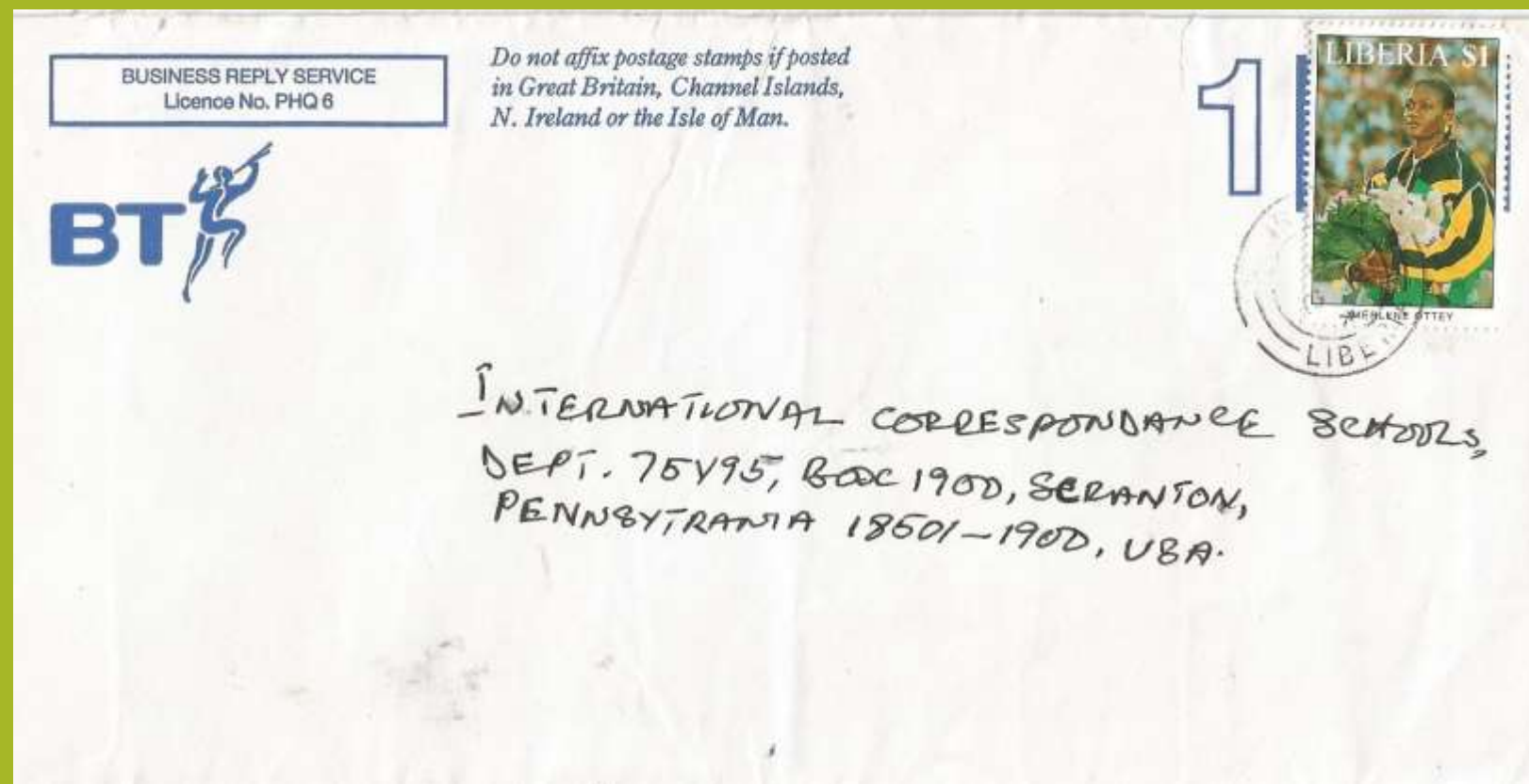
ECOMOG Nigerian Contingent

Outgoing ECOMOG

Cover 13 de 1995

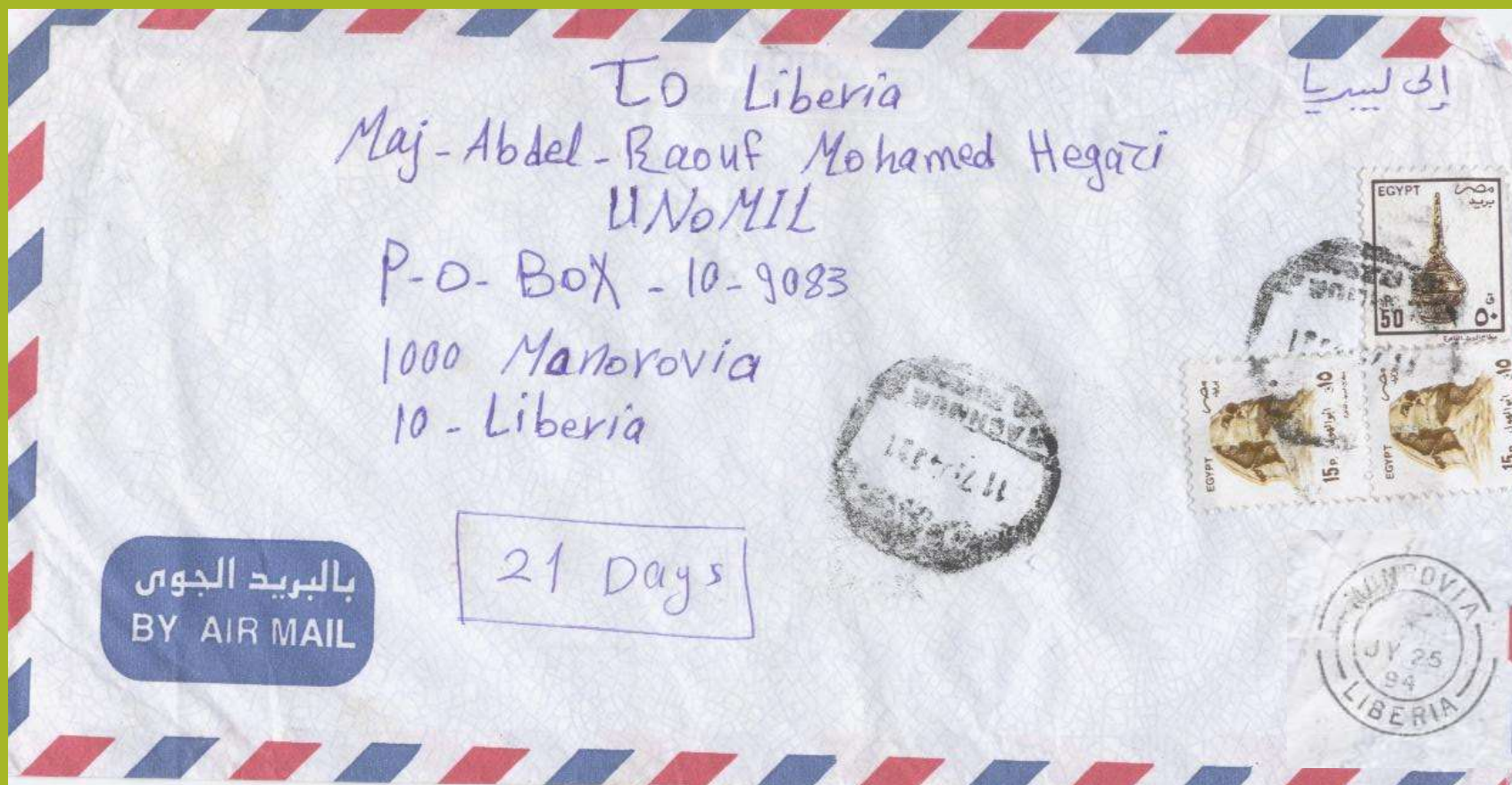
Monrovia civilian mail use
to USA

apt. Tijudeen Kormoran
mi cell, ECOMOG HQ,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA.
WEST AFRICAN





UNOMIL Egyptian Contingent



Incoming UNOMIL

Cover 11 jy 1994 Ashuan,
Egypt arrived 25 jy 1994
Monrovia

UNOMIL made use of the
civilian postal system
through P.O.Box 9083



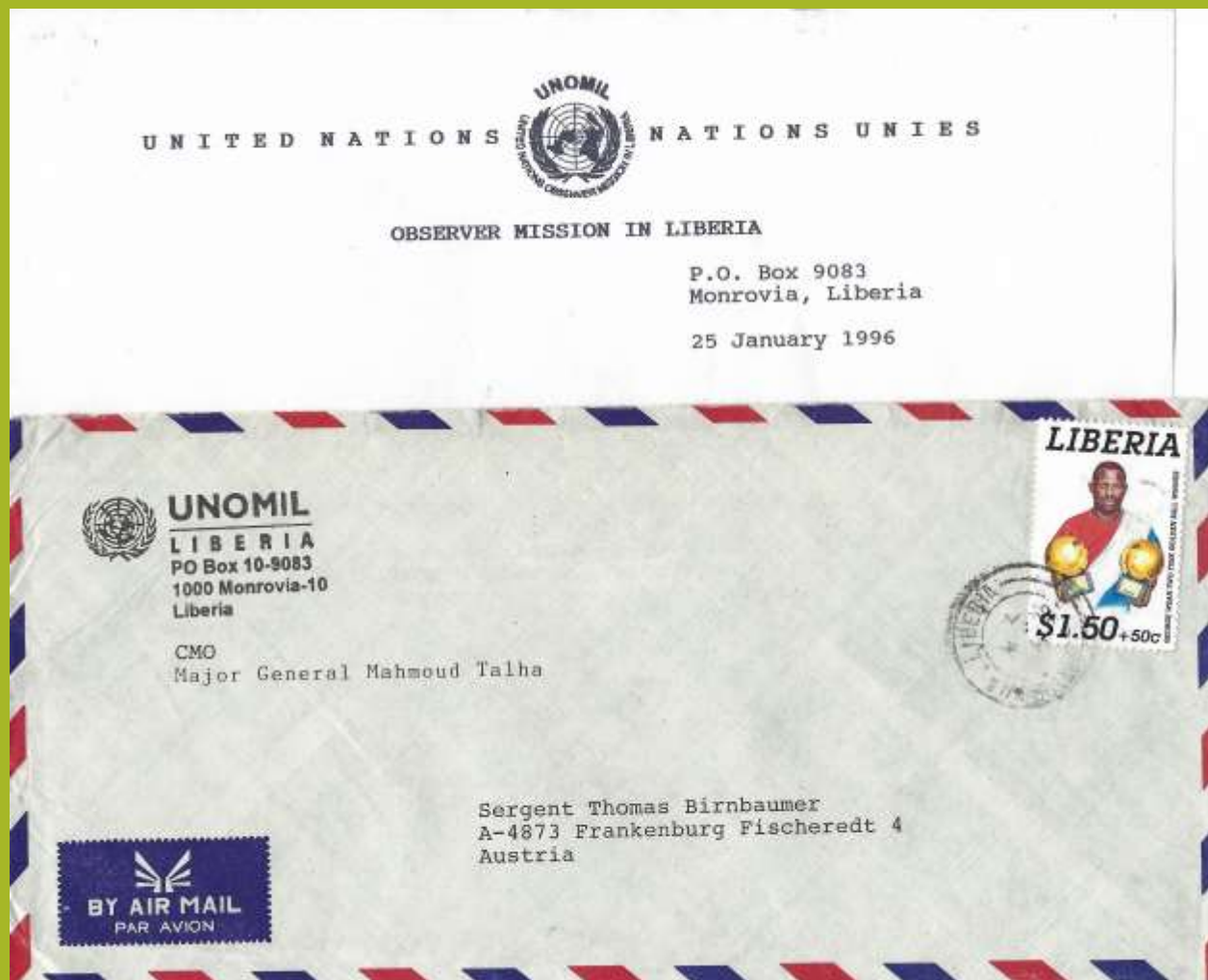
UNOMIL Austrian Contingent



Outgoing UNOMIL
United Nations air letter
28 jy 1994 Monrovia



UNOMIL Egyptian Contingent



Outgoing UNOMIL

Cover 31 ja 1996 Monrovia from

Chief Military Observer

Major-General Mahmoud Talha (Egypt)

in function December 1995 - June 1996



UNOMIL Chinese Contingent



Incoming UNOMIL

Cover 03 mr 1997
Nanjing, China

despatched via the UN
New York office



The Transition Period

Return Address
Trust Photo Studio
P.O. Box 3648
Ashmun Street
Monrovia Liberia



The College of Professional
Management:

Chestnut farm, P.O. Box 418
Jersey, Jeddugui, Britain.

Foreign civilian mail

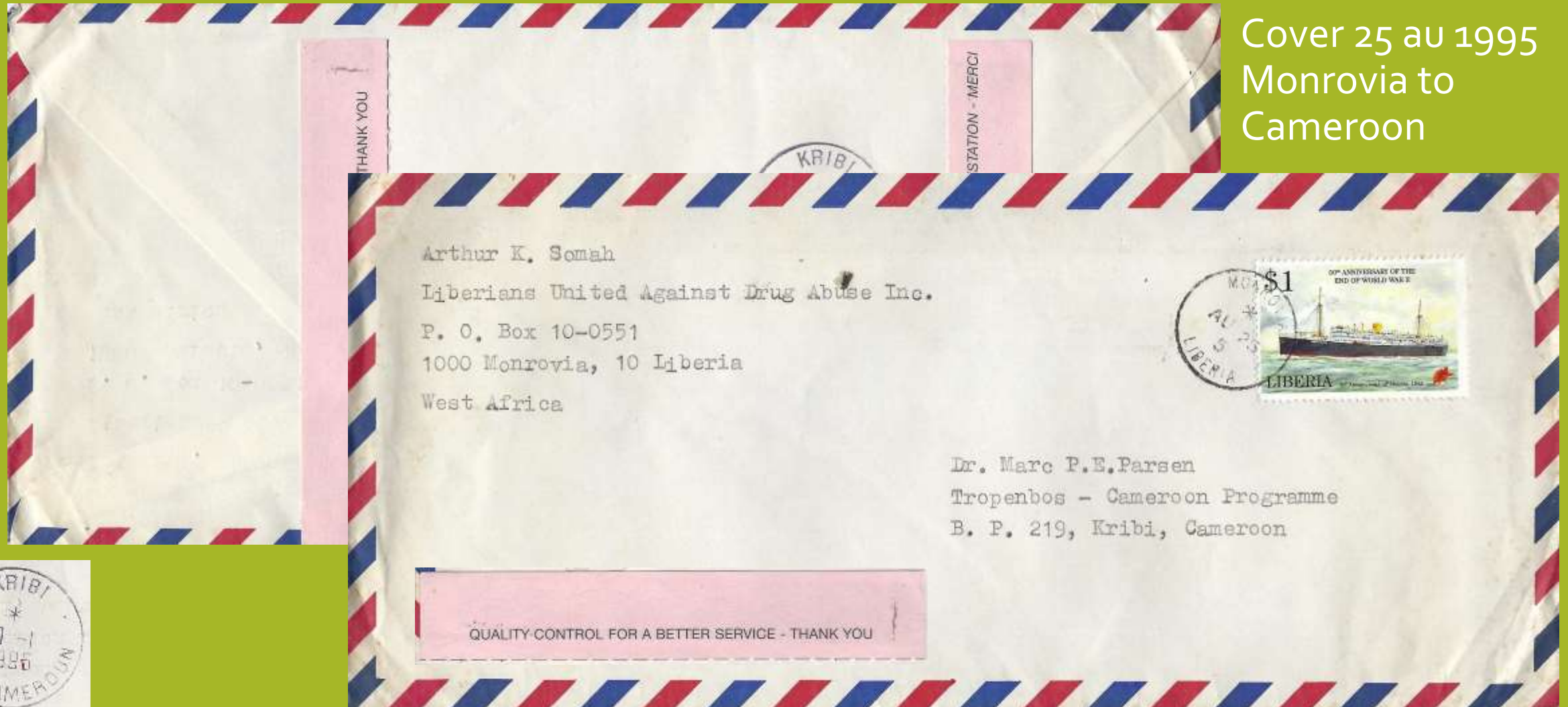
Cover 27 sp 1994
Monrovia to Jersey, UK

Surtaxe stamp issued
06 ja 1994 to honour
Sean Devereux an
English Silesian
missionary who worked
1989-1992 in Liberia
and murdered in
Somalia in 1993



The Transition Period

Cover 25 au 1995
Monrovia to
Cameroon



THANK YOU

STATION - MERCI

KRI BI

Arthur K. Somah
Liberians United Against Drug Abuse Inc.
P. O. Box 10-0551
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
West Africa



Dr. Marc P.E. Parsen
Tropenbos - Cameroon Programme
B. P. 219, Kribi, Cameroon

QUALITY CONTROL FOR A BETTER SERVICE - THANK YOU



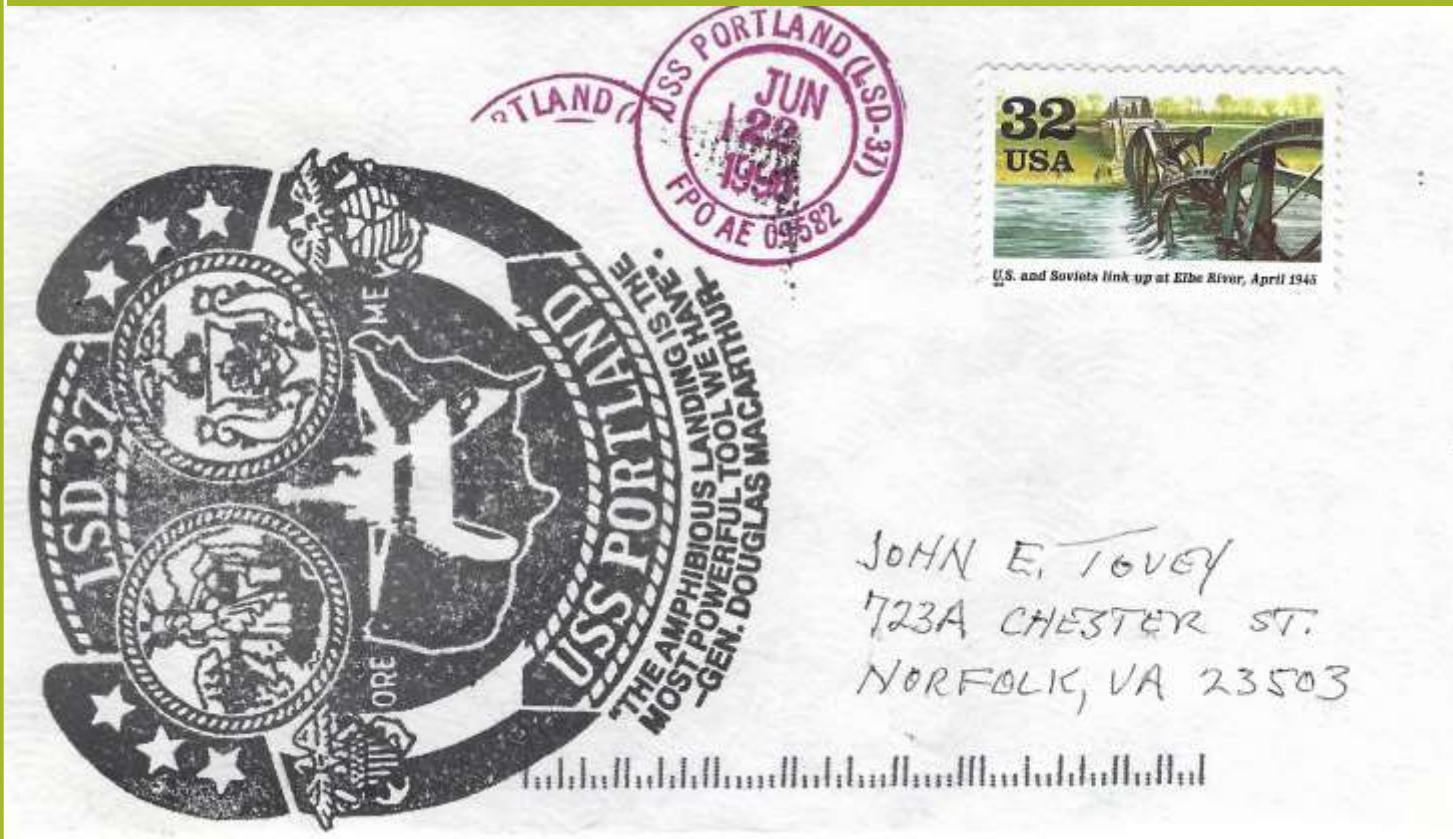


United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) 1996

- Continued fighting seen while disarmament and demobilization continued
- 6 April 1996 several weeks large scale looting seen in Monrovia
- 88 of UNOMIL's 93 military observers were relocated to Freetown and Dakar
- ECOMOG deployed in central Monrovia establishing check-points and undertaking patrols
- Half Monrovia's 1.3 million citizens were displaced, with many thousands concentrated in several locations in an attempt to escape the fighting
- Post office in Monrovia looted too and all stamps in stock were stolen
- Liberia had no more functioning post office and no stamps, later that year new stamps issued



Evacuation U.S. citizens under Operation Assured Response : April – August 1996



- USS Portland (LSD 37) dock landing ship
- USS Guam (LPH 9) amphibious assault ship carrying U.S. Marine Corps
- USS Trenton (LPD 14) amphibious transport dock ship



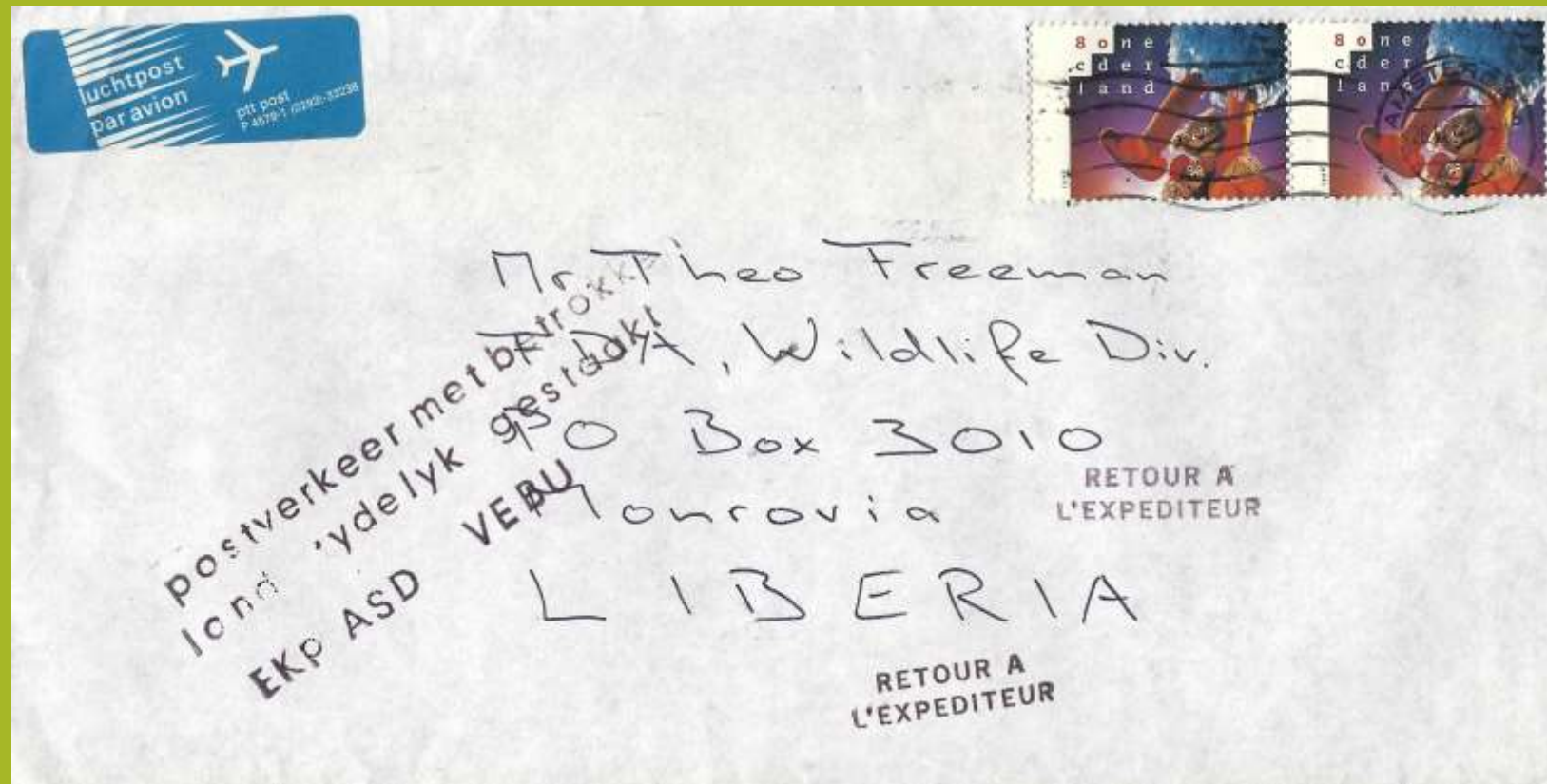
1996 International Postal Disruption

Foreign incoming civilian mail

Cover 26 sp 1996
Amsterdam to Monrovia

Postal service temporarily disrupted Amsterdam foreign mail sorting centre

Returned mail





United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in Liberia (UNOL) no 1997 – de 2002

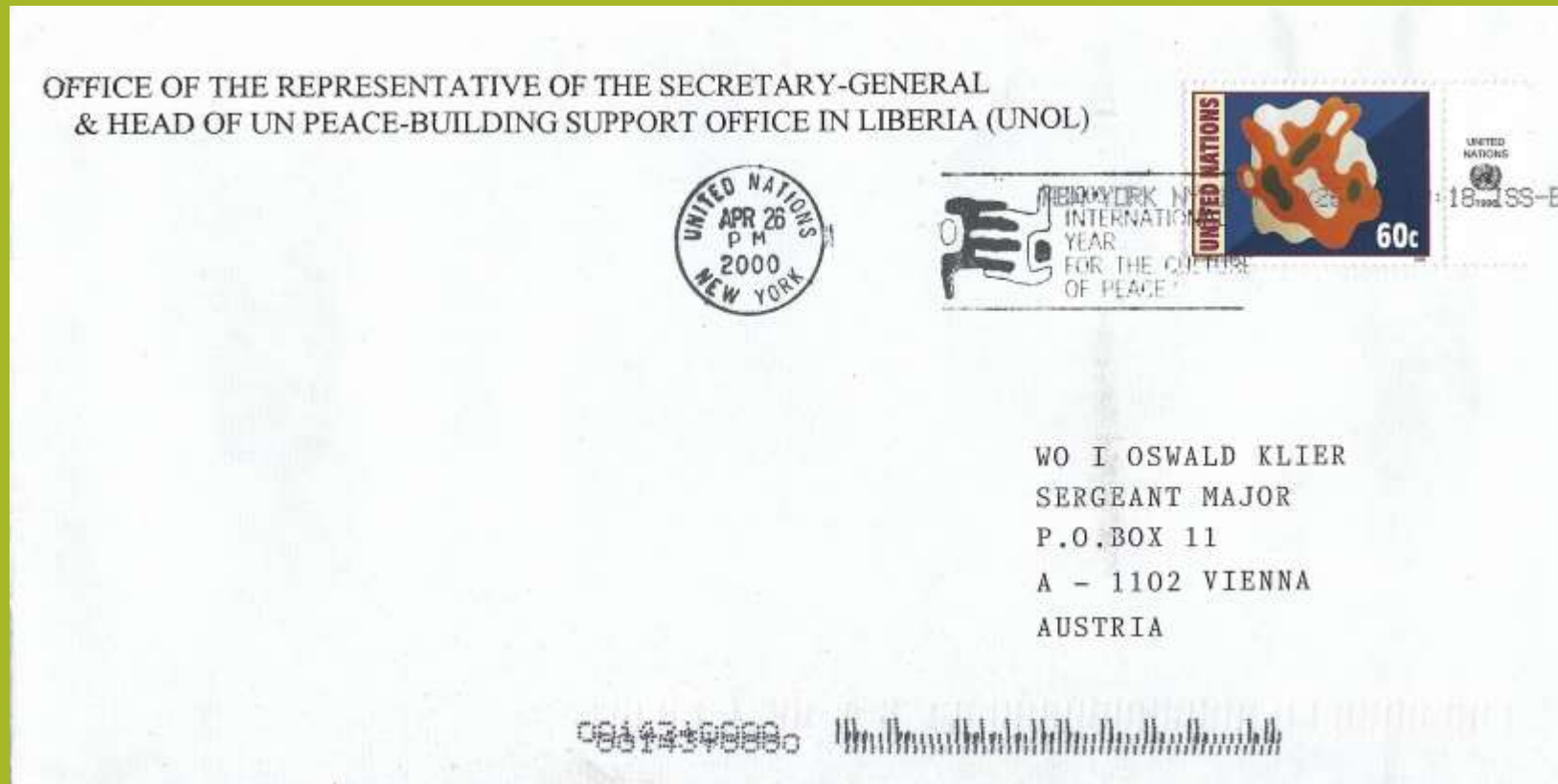
United Nations successfully observed the conduct of the elections in July 1997

Charles Taylor president

1997 – 2003

UNOL to push for a more inclusive political agenda

UNOL cover 26 ap 2000
via New York to Austria



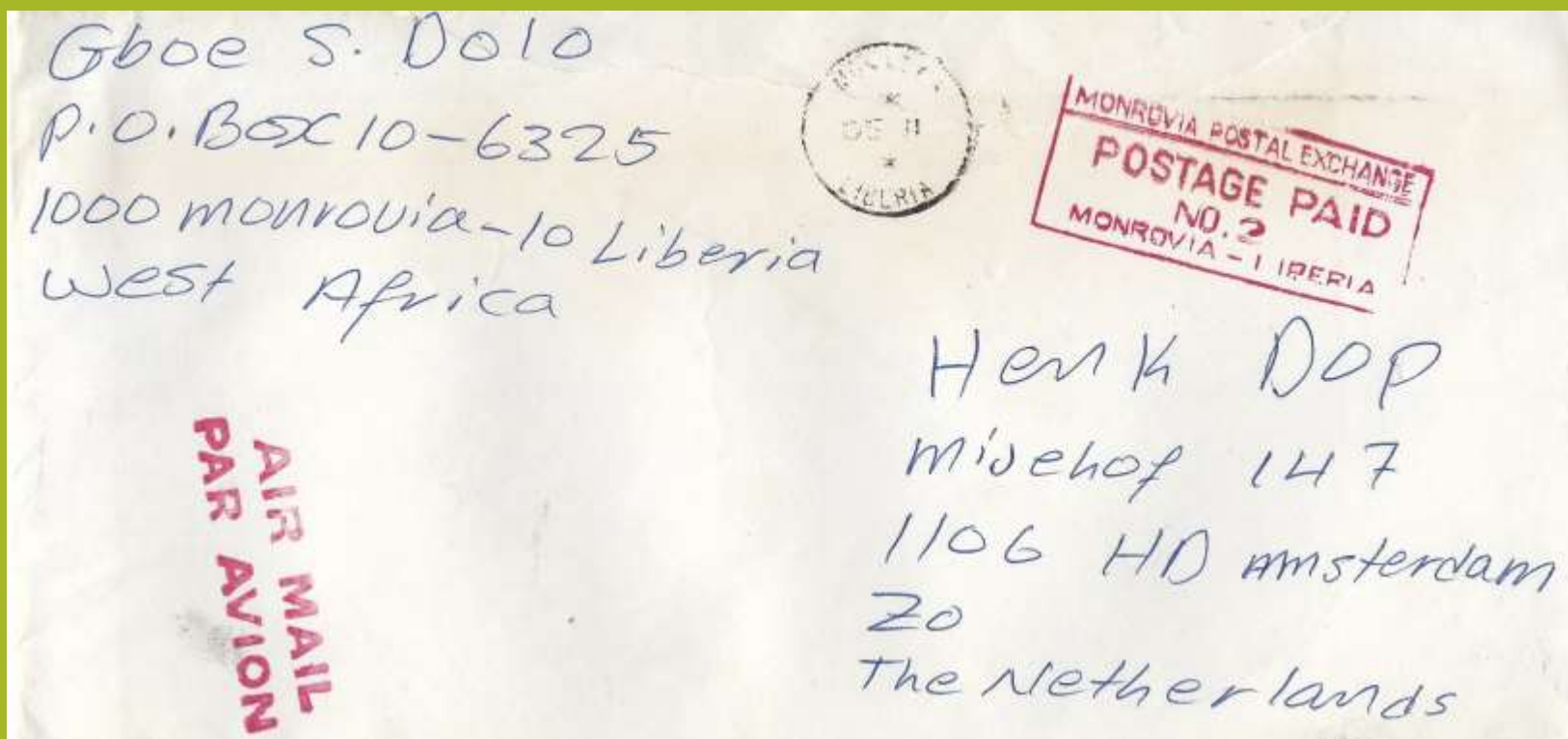


The Transition Period

Stamps issued before 6 April 1996 not valid > financial breakdown administration

Stamps issued afterwards accepted but often quickly sold out

Made use of handstamps instead with 23 mm single circle handstamp instead of 26 mm with arches



Foreign civilian mail

Cover 11 de 1998 Monrovia to Amsterdam

POSTAGE PAID NO. 2 red



Outer rectangle 51x30 mm



The Transition Period

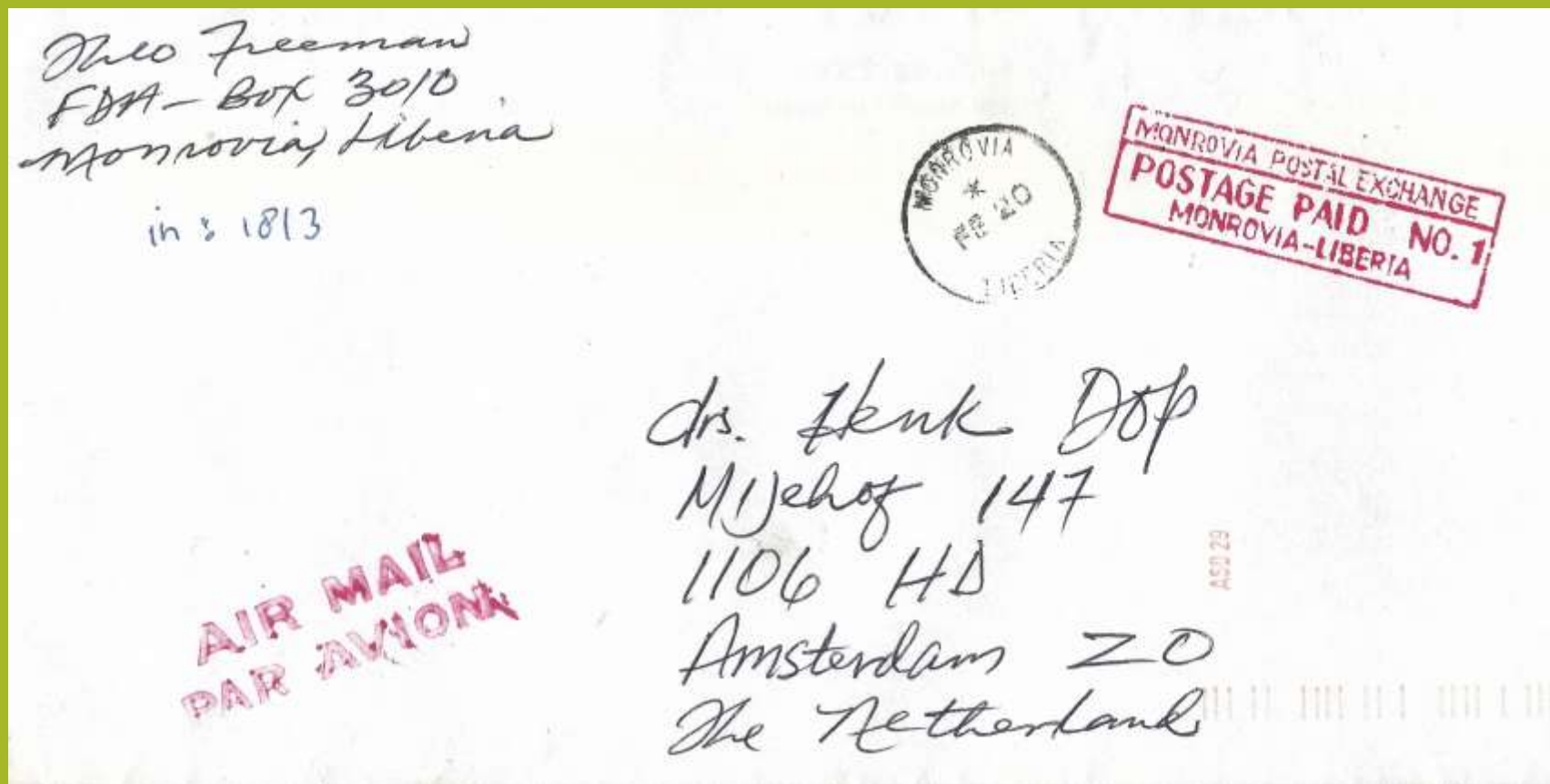
Foreign civilian mail

Cover 21 fe 1999 Monrovia
to Amsterdam arrived 18
mr 1999

POSTAGE PAID NO. 1 red



Outer rectangle 51x15 mm





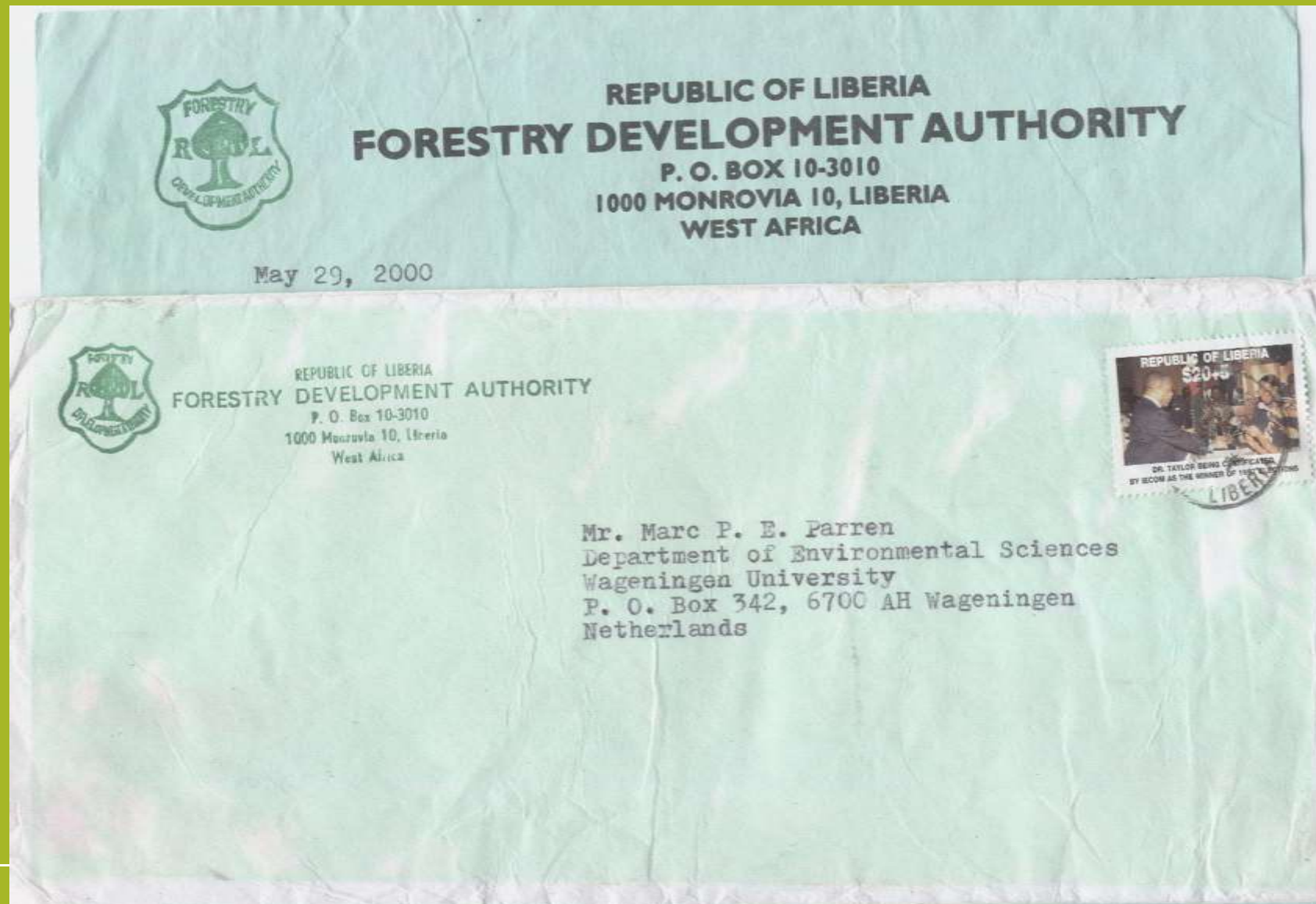
The Transition Period

Foreign civilian mail

Cover 29 my 2000
Monrovia to Netherlands

Surtaxe stamp to honour
Charles Taylor winner of
1997 elections.

Unrecorded by Michel &
Scott catalogues





The Second Liberian Civil War: 1999 - 2003

- ECOMOG troops and UNOMIL military observers retreated
- 1999 Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) Mandingo dominated rebel group backed by Guinea emerged at the north-west of Liberia
- 2003 Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) Krahn dominated rebel group emerged in the south
- jy-au 2003 Monrovia besieged by the LURD
- jy 2003 post office in Monrovia looted again
- Charles Taylor in exile in Calabar, Nigeria
- American and West African troops arrive once more as peacekeepers

Foreign civilian mail

Cover 09 ja 2003 Monrovia
to Japan



44 mm single ring with
date across centre



The Transition Period

Registered letter sent 20 mr 2001 Monrovia to a Major with the Marines of a Dutch contingent with UNMEE (Eritrea and Ethiopia) via NAPO 1011



02 ap 2001 Veldpost 6 at Utrecht, Netherlands

04 ap 2001 Veldpost 30 at Asmara, Eritrea

University of Liberia Postal Affairs, Liberia
 Receipt for Registration Letter/Packet/Parcels (s) No. 0974

Sender F-D-A
P.O. Box 3019 Monrovia Lib
 Addressee Maj MARUS Schot E.K
Netherlands

Date Stamp

T. Koko
 (Accepting Officer's Signature) P.22

Draft No. _____ Amount _____



United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) oc 2003 – mr 2018

- Accra peace agreement signed in August 2003
- Establishment UNMIL to support the National Transitional Government of Liberia to implement peace agreement
- 15,000 troops, including 250 military observers and up to 875 UN police officers
- To present a deterrent force, Ireland and Sweden contributed mechanised rifle companies. They were also the only Western countries to participate
- 49 countries contributed (mainly from Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Ukraine)
- UNMIL work closely with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (MINUCI)
- UNMIL assisted three democratic presidential and legislative elections in 2005, 2011 and 2017



Zr.Ms. Rotterdam peacekeeping UNMIL : December 2003-February 2004

PAYS BAS		Prior PAR AVION		CN 35	
De Napo 350		Pour NAPO 500		ROYAL ARMY	
Hnlms Rotterdam		UTRECHT VELDPOST			
Depeche no Sac no		3509 VP UTRECHT			
. 5005 . 2/1					
Date d'expédition		Ligne no			
. 02-02-'04					
Cat		Aeroport de transbordement		Aeroport de dechargement	
Prioritaire					
Date rec		Kg		AMS	
291100		9,00			
14:35					



- Zr.Ms. Rotterdam (L800) landing platform dock with 4 large landing craft utility on board used as hospital ship



UNMIL with support UNAMSIL

Nepalese UNMIL contingent use of UNAMSIL aerogramme sent via Freetown 12 mr 2004

UNITED NATIONS  MISSION IN ~~SIERRA LEONE~~ ^{LIBERIA}

From UNAMSIL To

NAME Baj Kumar SGT. Tajendra Bdr Karri

RANK CPI Shree Kali Box Gan E

UNIT MP No. 1 Field Gunma Gancheh Bayreah.

ADDRESS Star Building Nepalese Air Port Keethmandu.

CONT UNMIL POST Box 9033 Nepal.

Post and Tele communications Building.

MONROVIA LIBERIA

AÉROGRAMME · AIR LETTER · PAR AVION








UNMIL with support UNAMSIL

Banlog-2 UNMIL contingent use of UNMIL aerogramme sent via Freetown 26 ja 2005

UNITED NATIONS  MISSION IN LIBERIA


UNMIL

NAME Mahmud Hossain


RANK CPT/QTA

UNIT Banlog-2

ADDRESS Post Box-4677.
Liberia



TO,
Abu AL Hasan
148, Matikata
Dhaka Cantonment,
Dhaka-1206,
Bangladesh



AÉROGRAMME · AIR LETTER · PAR AVION



Elections October – November 2005

EU Election Observation Mission

Sent via SN Brussels 21 oc 2005
Brussels from Austrian observer
back home with SENBAT 4
handstamp that operated in
Maryland County (Harper) on the
border with Côte d'Ivoire

Colonel Ada Koundoul
contingent Commander





Elections October – November 2005

EU Election Observation Mission

UNMIL aerogramme sent 07 no 2005 postage paid via the Swedish FPO to Germany



Presence Sweden mr 2004 – no 2006. Each heavy armoured contingent 230 soldiers. Each received 5 Swedish field post free covers and 20 UNMIL free covers



Elections October – November 2005

UNMIL Harper on border with Côte d'Ivoire via Swedish FPO



Mail Bag Label Swedish contingent transport SN Brussels & Scandinavian Airlines



FROM Stockholm utr	By airmail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F
Mail No 9	To Monrovia Swecon UNMI	
Receiptacle no 5	LIBERIA	
Date of dispatch 01/02/05	Flight No SK 1589/SN 243	
Gross weight (kg) 5.4	Airport of transhipment BRU	Offloading airport MLW
Net-net weight (kg) 5.1		





UNMIL

Ghana UNMIL contingent 850 military strong mail transport by direct UN aircraft flights to Accra

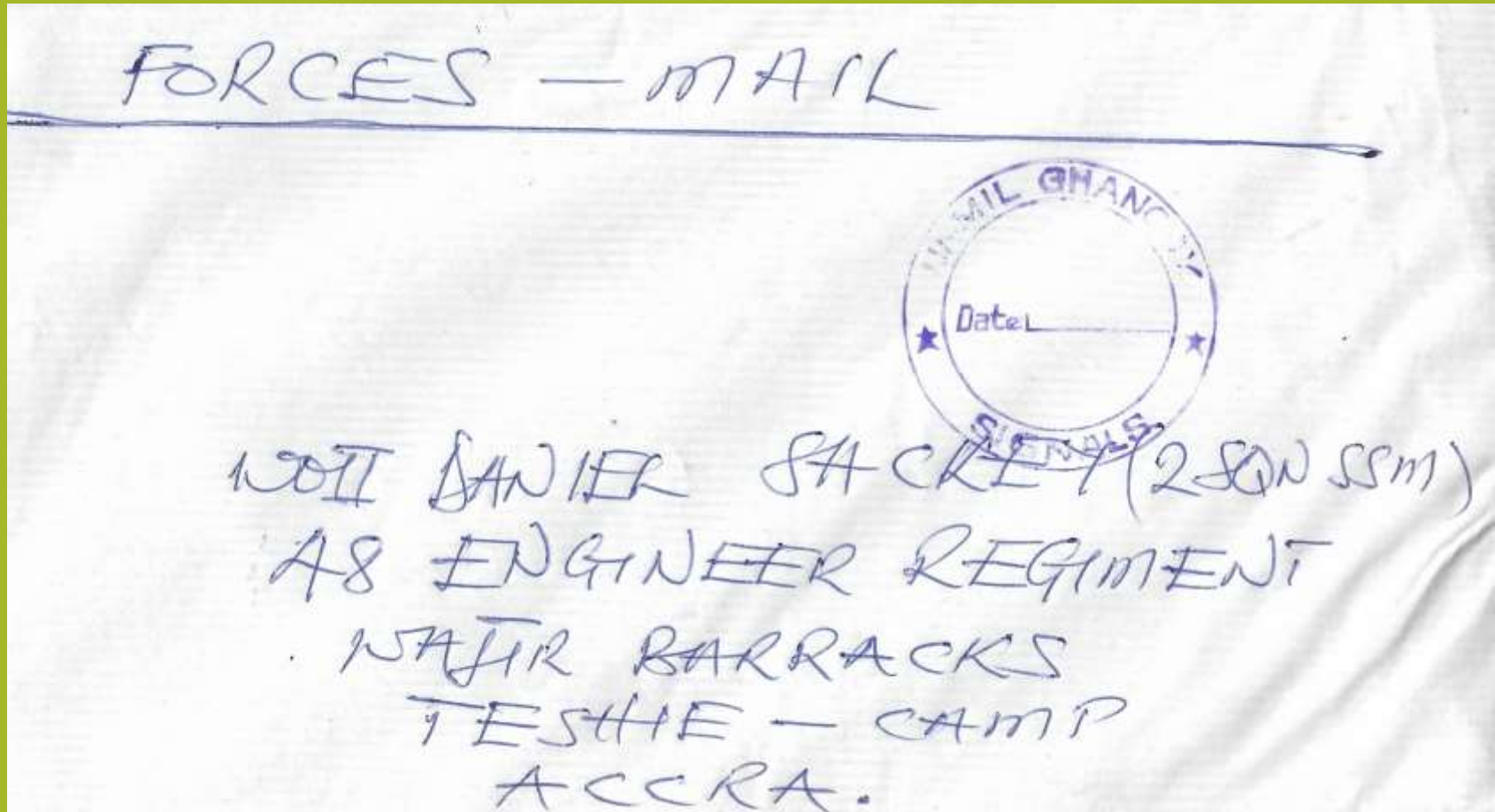
40 mm double ring
GHANCOY Signals

20 jy 2004



GHANBATT Signal

16 de 2006





Civilian mail

Women and Children Development Organization (WOCHIDO) NGO



Despatch by pouch through the UN postal system

09 de 2005 meter franking label
Pitney Bowes "Gem" ZIP Code 10017 introduced in 2005
12 de 2005 United Nations New York double ring datestamp to the Netherlands



Civilian mail

Registered cover 04 au 2004
Monrovia to Netherlands
barcode label sorting
Amsterdam

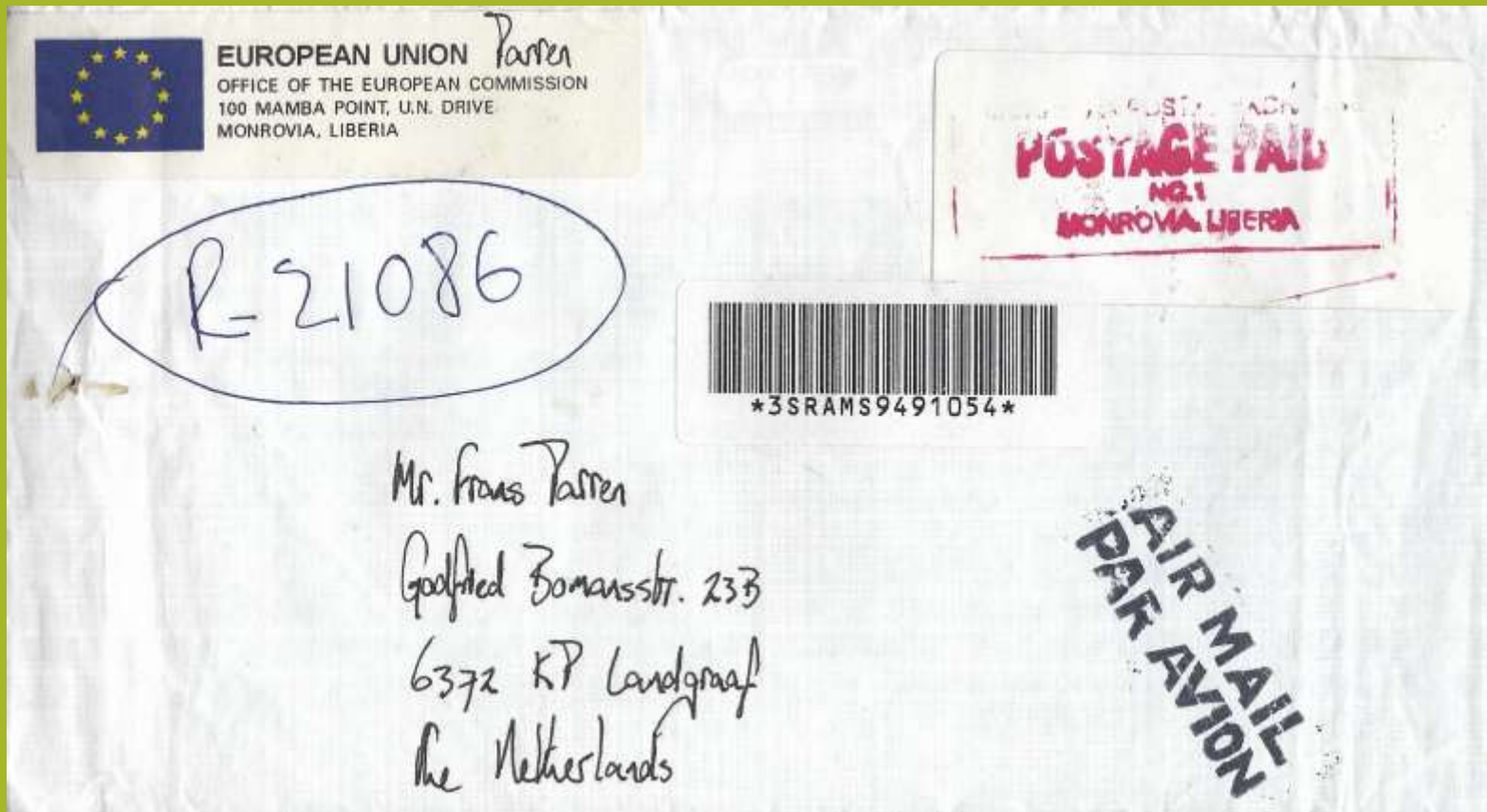
MONROVIA POSTAL
EXCHANGE
POSTAGE PAID NO. 1
MONROVIA LIBERIA in red
Outer rectangle 61x23 mm

RECEIPT No. 21086
Date: AUG 4 - 2004

Received from European Union, Paris
The sum of Office of the European Comm. Dollars
For Mr. Frans Godfried Goodfield
The Netherlands

Amount Paid Netherlands

T.V. KOKRO
Authorised Signatory





Civilian mail



24 Dec
12/1/06

Dr. Marc Parren
Validation of Legal Timber Programme
Forestry Commission
P.O.Box MB 434
Accra
GHANA

Express to Ghana 2006

Rectangular
handstamp in black



Aerogramme bought by me in 2004 at the post office. Unrecorded so far

Printed locally in Monrovia by Graphix Tech Int'L





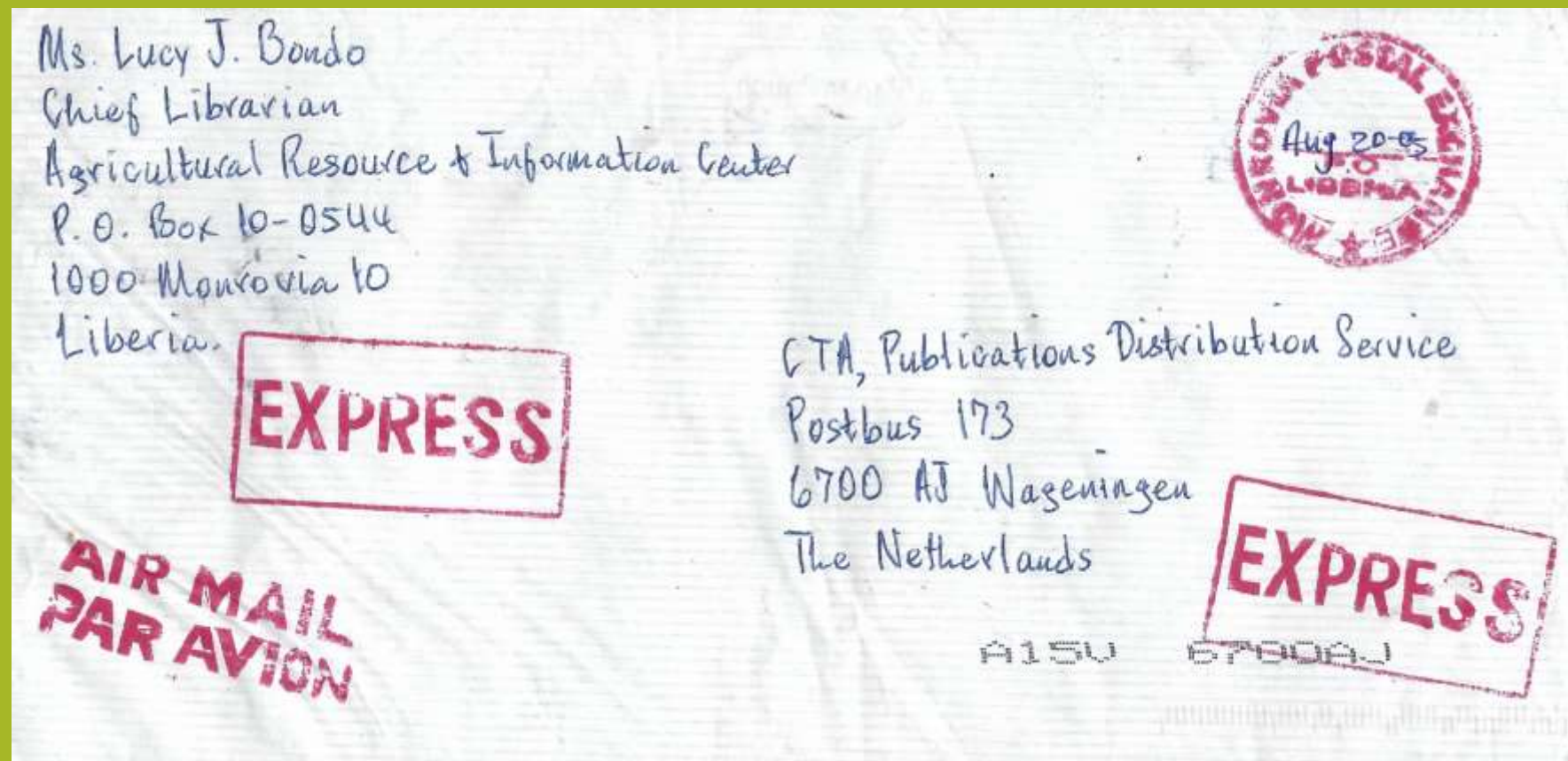
Civilian mail

Express cover au 2005
Monrovia to
Netherlands

MONROVIA POSTAL
EXCHANGE

P.O. LIBERIA in red

Circle 31 mm diameter





Civilian mail

Registered cover 30 au 2007 Randall Street Post Office (in blue)
to Netherlands with barcode label sorting Rotterdam



MONROVIA
POSTAL
EXCHANGE
NO. 8

12 se 2007
LIBERIA in
red/brown

Outer rectangle for
both 58x38 mm



UPU assisted openings post offices

Cover 09 oc 2009 Ganta Post Office (in blue) to Yaounde-Nlongkak, Cameroon arrival 14 ja 2010

Outer rectangle for both 58x38 mm



Conclusion

- Very little civilian mail seen
- UN Peacekeeping mail via pouch except Swedish contingent own FPO
- Only post office in the country plundered in April 1996 & July 2003
- Afterwards mostly handstamps seen used almost no postage stamps as they were soon sold out
- Issuance first postage stamps after July 2003 looting in August 2006
- Gradually opening post offices with UPU assistance





Thank you for your
attention

marcparren@hotmail.com