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COMMUNICATION OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1997 RECEIVED FROM LIBERIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The text of a letter dated 26 September 1997 which the Director General has received from the Permanent Mission of Liberia is - as requested - reproduced for the attention of the General Conference.

"With reference to your recent communication to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia, we understand that Liberia has failed to comply with Article XIX.A of the Statute.

" However, we would like to remind and stress that the Country has been through more than seven years of civil war. During this period the situation was so serious, that it was obviously impossible for the Government to meet its commitments and regularly pay its contributions to the International Organizations.

"We further also understand that countries that can prove extreme conditions, and for Liberia these conditions have certainly been acknowledged by the International Community, should not be denied their voting rights until the situation is re-established and allows the Government to keep up with its commitments.

"Also it is our understanding that the Contributions Committee, meeting recently at the UN General Assembly in New York, has advised to forgive the UN debt of the Liberian Government.

"We would appreciate if the Division of Budget and Finance could give its best consideration to the above statements and kindly consider not to withdraw the voting rights of Liberia until further developments of the situation, which we hope will take place in the near future, will allow the Government to resume a normal pace of working conditions."^{2/}

^{2/} It is suggested that, pursuant to Rule 42(b) of the Conference's Rules of Procedure and in line with past practice, this request be referred to the General Committee for consideration.

