United Nations Peacekeeping

AUDIO TAPE TEST # 11, "THE RIOT"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4MPyezib6U

You will hear an audio script concerning a mission-related topic. This script will be followed by a conversation between two persons. This conversation will relate to the script, you will hear the tape only once. You will make notes of the script and of the conversation. From these notes you will be instructed either to answer 10 (ten) questions or complete a written report of the incident.

On Sunday, 12 of March 2006 some members of the Liberian Progressive Party gathered on the Central Stadium of Monrovia. There were about 45 men and 32 women. A senior member of the party was addressing them at the top of his voice because there was no microphone. He told them that the main aim of this gathering was to show the newly elected president that they completely disappointed in the manner in which she was making appointments into her Cabinet. He stated that none of the portfolios was reserved for party members. According to him 75 percent of those appointed have not lived in Liberia within the past ten to fifteen years. They were even not in the party in the early days of political campaign. He told them that the president even refused to grant him audience to enable him discuss these issues with her. He proposed a demonstration to protest these shortcomings on the part of the President. When he had finished addressing the crowd, some senior and ordinary members of the Party spoke in turns, expressing their opinions regarding the issues raised by the first Speaker. One third of the party members spoke in support for the president and her Policies, arguing that all the Appointments were made on merit, for the good of Liberia and Liberians. They pleaded with those who were complaining to be patient with the President and give her all the support she needed to move the Country forward. There was confusion among them and they all dispersed. A secret meeting was later held by some of the members who were calling for a demonstration, where it was decided that they should go ahead with the demonstration on the next day 13th March, 2006.

At 10.00 hrs the next day about 55 party members gathered in front of the Presidential Palace. Like the previous day, there was no permit from the Justice Minister for this gathering as required by the Laws of Liberia. Three Liberian National Police (LNP) Officers on foot patrol and a UN police patrol team of three Officers in a Nissan Patrol jeep Number 461 were on duty in front of the Presidential Palace. The demonstrators appeared to be peaceful, but threatened to remain at the palace's gate until the President came out to speak with them.

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At 11.00 hrs two 25-seater buses arrived, fully loaded with people chanting solidarity songs in support of the President. The demonstrators who had gathered earlier did not pay any attention to them. The buses had barely stopped, when they all disembarked and started attacking the demonstrators with sticks and stones. 10 persons were wounded and some vehicles that brought the first group of demonstrators were seriously damaged. None of them ventured to enter the Presidential Palace as the President's Security Operatives assisted by LNP and UN Police officers stood firmly between them and the gates.
A distress call was made to the Radio Room. A Platoon of Anti Riot Police Officers was dispatched to the scene immediately. Upon sighting the Platoon, all the rioters except the wounded, ran away. An ambulance that had come with the Platoon took the wounded to the hospital.
By 1305 hours, peace had returned to the Palace. The chairman of the party promised to convene a meeting. He vowed that perpetrators will not go unpunished.

The following conversation was between the Inspector General of Police and the Head of lnp Intelligence Unit.

IGP: I want you to tell me everything you know about this riot. The Justice Minister has asked for a Report.

HEAD INT: I got a report that yesterday Sunday, the 12th of March 2006, members of Liberian Progressive party gathered on the Central Stadium of Monrovia.
IGP: How many of party members were present and what was the purpose of this gathering?
HEAD INT.: There were 45 men and 32 women. The gathering was at the instance of a senior member of the party who addressed them without a microphone. That they wanted to show the new President of Liberia that they were disappointed in the manner in which appointment into her Cabinet are made.
IGP: What about the appointments?
HEAD INT: He complained that 75% of those appointed have not lived in Liberia for the past 10 to 15 years and they were not in the party in the early days of political campaigns.
IGP: Is that all?
HEAD INT: He also claimed that the President refused him audience to discuss these issues with her. He proposed a demonstration to protest these shortcomings.
IGP: What was the reaction of party members? Did all of them support him?
HEAD INT: All except one third of the members spoke in his support.
IGP: What did those in minority say in favor of the President?
HEAD INT: They argued that the Appointments were made on merit for the good of Liberia and Liberians and pleaded with others to be patient and support the President to move the country forward.
IGP: Was the issue resolved before they dispersed?

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HEAD INT: No. there was confusion among them and they all dispersed. It was reported that some of those calling for a demonstration held a secret meeting later that day. They decided to go on with the demonstration the next day.
IGP: Go on and tell me more.
HEAD INT: At 1000 hours today about 50 party members gathered in front of the Presidential Palace.
IGP: Did they have a permit for these gathering?
HEAD INT: Like in the first gathering, they still did not have a permit as required of them by the Laws of Liberia which provide that all public gatherings and assembly must be with a permit from the Justice Minister.
IGP: Don't we have a Patrol in front of the Presidential Palace?
HEAD INT: Yes, we had three LNP Officers on foot patrol and three UN Police officers on patrol in vehicle No. 461. And they were all present.
IGP: What was the mood of the Demonstrators?
HEAD INT: They appeared to be peaceful, but threatened to remain at the Palace's gate until the President came out to speak with them.
IGP: Did the President come out to speak with them?
HEAD INT: The President did not come out. They were still at the Palace's gate till 1100 hours, when two 25-seater buses fully loaded with people chanting solidarity songs in support of the President arrived.
IGP: How did the first group react when they arrived?
HEAD INT: The first group did not pay any attention to them. The people inside the buses disembarked as the buses were yet to fully come to a stop and attacked the first group with sticks and stones.
IGP: Did any of them enter the Presidential Palace?
HEAD INT: Non of them could enter because the President's Security Operatives assisted by LNP and UN Police officers stood firmly between them and gate, preventing them from getting close to the gate.
IGP: Were there any casualties?
HEAD INT: 10 persons were injured and some vehicles that brought the first demonstrators were seriously damaged. The officers made a distress call to the Radio Room and a Platoon of Police support Unit was immediately dispatched to the scene.
IGP: Were there any arrests made?
HEAD INT: As soon as they sighted the Platoon, all rioters ran away, leaving behind only the wounded. An ambulance that came with the Platoon took the wounded to the Hospital.
IGP: Thank you for all the information. I will send a written report to the Justice Minister before leaving my office today.
HEAD INT: Thanks you. I will come with you, you may need some assistance.

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QUESTION PAPER
"THE RIOT"

Family Name: …… First Name: ……..
Country: …… Date…….

Q1: How many female members of the party were among those gathered in the Central stadium?

Q2: What did the demonstrators do when two 25-seater fully loaded buses arrived with people chanting solidarity songs in support of the president?

Q3: On what day and time did 50 party members gather in front of the Presidential Palace?

Q4: How many party members spoke in support of the President?

Q5: According to the laws of Liberia, who issues permit for public gatherings?

Q6: How many fully loaded 25-seater buses went to the Presidential Palace?

Q7: What is the number of persons that were wounded?

Q8: Who stood firmly between the demonstrators and the gates?

Q9: What decision was taken in the secret meeting?

Q10: What condition did the demonstrators give before they will live the Palace's gate?

LIVEWORKSHEETS