READING COMPREHENSION TEST # 3.
"RUBBER PLANTATION"

SITUATION REPORT # 01

The "Firestone" rubber company was established in 1926 on land granted by liberian government. Now this company is a global supplier of polymeric materials to the rubber, plastics, and asphalt markets. Rubber production began to play one of the major roles of the liberian economy in the first half of the last century. The main building and management of the company is located 75 km south from the capital of Liberia Monrovia. The "Firestone" rubber plantation has approximately 8 million trees, and it is the world's largest natural rubber plantation. During Civil War the company was shut. World Bank promotes oil palm and rubber plantations in Liberia and the reopening of the rubber company became possible with the financial support of the World Bank. According to the agreement, which was signed in December 2003 the "Firestone" rubber company would receive from World Bank a loan of 3.5 million us dollars to develop rubber plantation in its 120,000 hectares estate.

SITUATION REPORT # 02

On 24 September 2004 at 23.30 hrs 3 gunmen, armed with 3 machineguns arrived on a big truck and stole 4500 kg of rubber from the ware house of the "Firestone" company, located in Sector number-3. The warehouse was guarded by only one night watchman, who had no weapon. The robbers forced him to surrender and warned him, that he would be killed if he reports the robbery to the police. On 25 September 2004 the Authority of the "Firestone" company was very upset with the loss of the rubber. The estimated loss cost 10000 (ten thousand) US dollars. The watchman was fired. The management of the company electrified the perimeter of the warehouse, hired 12 security officers and armed them with 12 rifles. On 27 September at 01.20 hrs security officers noticed the approach of the big truck towards the north gates of the warehouse. The area was well lit and security saw that the color of the cabin of the truck was yellow and the luggage boot was black. There were 3 gunmen in the cabin of the truck. The security warned the truck to stop. The truck stopped. One of the gunmen opened fire and tried to flee. The security fired at him, but the gunmen fled away. The two gunmen were arrested.

FOLLOW UP REPORT # 03

At 07.30 hrs on 27 September 2004 the Liberian National Police (LNP) started investigation of the gunfire incident at the warehouse of the "Firestone" company. The police found blood spots on the grass 50 meters away from the north gates of the company. Following the blood trace the LNP found the wounded man in the village. The sufferer received a bullet wound to his left arm and was unconscious because he lost much blood. The police took him to the hospital. The attending doctor said that wound was serious and the injured man would stay in the hospital for two weeks. The investigation revealed that the stolen rubber was hidden in the village. The rubber was returned to the "Firestone" company. The case is under investigation. The management of the "Firestone" company extended compliments and thanks to LNP head quarters for the return of their property and asked permission to set two check points on the road to prevent robbery from the warehouse in the future.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

QUESTIONS: READING TEST #3 "RUBBER PLANTATION"

Q1: When was the "Firestone" rubber company established?

Q2: What role did the Rubber production play in the Liberian economy in the first half of the last century?

Q3: Whom would the rubber company receive financial support from?

Q4: Which markets does the "Firestone" company supply polymeric materials to?

Q5: What was the night watchman of the warehouse armed with?

Q6: What was the estimated cost of the stolen rubber?

Q7: What did the management of the company do to light the area near the warehouse?

Q8: What injury did the fled gunman receive?

Q9: How long the sufferer would stay in the hospital for?

Q10: Why did the management of the "Firestone" company ask permission to set two check points?

LIVEWORKSHEETS