

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER URGES JAPAN TO WAIVE DEBT



Minister Wallace

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. George Wallace has called on the

Government of Japan to consider bringing greater relief to Liberia by waiving debts Liberia owes Japan.

Minister Wallace made the call during program marking the signing ceremony of Japan support to arms for development by UNDP small arm control program.

The program, which took place at the UNDP

attended by several personalities including human right activists, government officials and the press.

The Foreign Minister lauded the Government of Japan for the donation of US\$ 2m to improve the UNDP small arm control program.

He noted that Liberia has graduated from war and political upheavals and has resolved never to look back into the tragic pages of history.

Minster Wallace said priority of government is to replace weapons with useful implements in the hands of those who got accustomed to using

By Kevin S. Tydehson

"A weapon free Liberia provides the best guarantee against crimes and other vices in the society," Minister Wallace maintained.

Minister Wallace stressed that the danger of weapons lathering the country in the midst of a youthful population with more than 85 percent unemployment rate is both alarming and frightening.

Minister Wallace cited many significant contributions made by the Government of Japan over the years. He mentioned the contribution of Japan for the welfare of child

DDRR Exercises. He also alluded to the grant of US\$2.25 million made by the Government of Japan to UNICEF in Liberia to protect the country's

young population from infectious diseases including malaria and acute respiratory infections.

Minister Wallace furthered by saying that he hopes a stronger bilateral relations in which Japan will deal directly with the government in assessing and assisting her immediate priority needs as the country move away from emergency to reconstruction and development.