

**Remarks delivered on behalf of H. E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf by
Dr. Toga G. McIntosh, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
At the Opening of the
Ambassador Francis A. Dennis Sr. Memorial Library
Thursday, June 9th @ 2:00 M
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Members of the Dennis Family;

Distinguished Guests;

Friends:

After all that has been said about the life and times of this consummate Career Diplomat, Ambassador Francis A. Dennis, Sr., all that is left for me is to applaud and commend his remarkable and extraordinary life and achievements – a life dedicated to spreading the message to the world that there was a tiny African nation called Liberia, and that he represented the best that his country had to offer.

Here was a man who began serving his government and people as a Cadet, at what is today the Civil Service Agency, and who rose to become Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to three of the most powerful nations on our planet – the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and to the Court of St. James, in the United Kingdom. He reached the pinnacle of his profession, doing so in record time. There was no higher posting! That's extraordinary!

What is equally extraordinary, Dear Friends, is that his family, recognizing what a treasury of books, papers and other

documents on Liberia and elsewhere that the esteemed Ambassador had collected over a lifetime, is today gifting them to the country and people he loved and so faithfully served for many years.

I thank you, on behalf of our Government and people, and in my own name, for your thoughtfulness, for this selfless gesture. After today, this Memorial Library will serve as a place where individuals pursuing Foreign Service careers, and students of diplomacy, can do research and develop a comprehensive understanding of the impact the past has on the present and future of Liberia and the world; a place where some of the historical documents which form the foundation upon which Liberian diplomacy has been built can be examined for a better knowledge of Liberia's place in the world.

The war years saw the destruction of much that was printed in books about our country. We are grateful that these papers, preserved abroad, have returned home, where they belong, and will, henceforth, empower others with education, knowledge, and understanding of the role Liberia has played and continues to play in world affairs.

Our profound thanks, again, to the Dennis family. I am delighted to be a part of this magnanimous act of giving, part of the legacy of this life-long Diplomat, Lawyer, Educator, Statesman and Public Servant.

Liberia owes him a debt of gratitude!