



For Immediate Release  
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## **U.S. Embassy Partners with Government of Liberia in Record Setting Demolition of the Omega Navigation Transmitting Tower**

(MONROVIA) – The United States Ambassador to Liberia, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, joined President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today for the demolition of the Omega Navigation Transmitting Tower in Paynesville, outside of Monrovia.

“The Omega Tower stood for 38 years as a symbol of the long history of cooperation between Liberia and the United States,” Ambassador Greenfield said. “Its demolition marks the final chapter of an exceptional project, in which our nations were able to work together to provide a navigation service that was used by the entire world.”

The Omega Tower was built by the U.S. Navy in 1973 through a partnership with the Government of Liberia. The U.S. Government provided technical support for the station, while the Liberian Government maintained ownership of the tower and manned the station under a bilateral agreement.

The tower was part of the worldwide Omega Navigation System, which provided global navigation to ships, aircraft and others needing navigation information. The system operated through an international partnership that included eight transmitting stations operated by the governments of Liberia, France, Argentina, Australia, Norway, Japan and the United States.

Liberia’s Omega Tower operated for 24 years, until operations ceased in 1997. At that time, the satellite-based GPS system, a more advanced navigation system, became operational, and the Omega System was no longer needed. Since then, the tower has remained in the hands of the Government of Liberia and stood as a reminder of the U.S. and Liberia’s shared history.

In October 2010, the Government of Liberia requested U.S. Government assistance with the demolition of the tower. The tower had become a safety hazard and its removal will enable the construction of an official market and other facilities in line with Liberia’s developmental agenda.

At 1,410 feet, the tower was the largest structure on the continent. Its demolition set a new record for the tallest man-made structure in the world to be felled with explosives and will be entered into the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

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