MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE BELOW

FROM: Donald K. Steinberg
(STEINBERG)

SUBJECT: Reporting on Rwanda

Jill Daugherty tells me that CNN from Nairobi is reporting that:

A first convoy of Americans and other Westerners has made it out of Rwanda and to the hotel in Bujumbura. They are scheduled to be taken to Nairobi in C-130 aircraft. Two other convoys are still on the Rwandan side of the border. They will come out tomorrow. All of these convoy include Americans and other Westerners. There is a "fourth" convoy of Embassy officials (sic), but CNN is not informed as to their whereabouts. There are no U.S. troops in Rwanda escorting the convoys.

I told her that I couldn't comment on any of this, but warned her off the fourth convoy story. I also pointed out the danger in CNN trying to provide too many details on what's going on in this sensitive situation.

Don

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In response to the recent developments in Rwanda, the Department of Defense has pre-positioned military transport aircraft and helicopters in the region to assist, if necessary, with the evacuation of American citizens from Rwanda. Throughout the past two days, we have closely coordinated with our NATO allies, especially with the Belgians and the French, particularly with respect to the French action last evening to secure the airport in Kigali.

At the present time, all Americans in Rwanda are reported to be safe. Despite some positive developments on the ground, such as the establishment of a provisional government and the announcement of a temporary ceasefire, the situation in Rwanda remains uncertain. The ordered departure remains in effect. Americans are being evacuated as soon as possible.
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