

TD KIGALI 111

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA TO PARIS  
(APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> 1990)

KEY WORDS: RWANDA, HABYARIMANA, OFFICIAL VISIT

IN RESPONSE TO TELEGRAM #110.

The increasingly bitter and discouraged population, which the single party seeks to revitalize, feels the economic and food crisis harshly. The southern Hutus, who had power during Grégoire Kayibanda's first republic, criticize social inequality, which now benefits the northern Hutu clans, who currently hold the political power.

This opposition manifests itself in foreign-edited pamphlets, but does not seem to be sufficiently organized within the country to mobilize students and urban workers on the same scale as in other African capitals, or to provoke unrest likely to put the government into difficulties. Also, the emigrant Tutsi opposition would constitute a genuine danger only if it were able to generate an armed expedition supported from abroad.

The president could be in danger from his own clan, from that of his wife, or from that of his "friends" from Ruhengeri. He has put some distance between himself and his brothers-in-law, even though one of them controls foreign trade more and more by running "The Central" corporation, which benefits from a privileged position. The president has also neatly divided the direction of the army among several rival military chiefs, none of whom seems to be able to worry him. The most powerful of the colonels is Major Sagatwa, his private secretary, who belongs to the "clan of the first lady." Even if she were very attached to her family's interests, one doesn't see why these interests would push her to promote the eviction of her husband. It is hard to imagine, behind the soft and simple appearance of Agathe Habyarimana, the cruel Tutsi queen-mother Kangojera, to whom she is compared by the Rwandan opposition in exile.

President Habyarimana will seize the opportunity of his official visit to Paris to bolster his image and that of his country, to be sure from the President of the French Republic of French support in negotiations that Rwanda will not be able to avoid in 1990 with the World Bank and the IMF, and to attempt to eventually obtain a promise of financial support from our country, specially allocated for structural adjustment. He will strive to take advantage of the trip to make Rwanda better known in France and to attract future French investors, despite an administrative and legal environment—as in the rest of Africa—not conducive to expatriate entrepreneurs.

Military affairs, however, will be at the center of President Habyarimana's preoccupations. He currently appears very preoccupied with the threat that Tutsi emigrants and their Bahima brothers from southern Uganda pose for him. He will therefore speak not only about replacing his caravel with a more modern plane but also about his concern to assure the security of the Kigali airport, as well as that of the adjoining military camp and the presidential residence. He will therefore ask for effective radar surveillance and adequate anti-aerial artillery to be put in place. This point will be the subject of a separate communiqué. 130815./.

MARTRES