

*The General
President's Chief of Staff*

- N O T E -

to the attention of the President of the Republic

(care of the Secretary General)

S U B J E C T : RWANDA. Military situation.

The RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) offensive continues from UGANDA and still benefits from significant support from the Ugandan army.

The population, majority Hutu, flees from the fighting, refusing to stay in territory invaded by the RPF, essentially composed of Tutsis. The number of displaced persons from recent clashes has reached 280,000.

The first days of July will be decisive for RWANDA, because the RPF will probably try to reach a maximal territorial guarantee before July 10, the date selected for the next negotiations. The information that reaches me on Ugandan help for the RPF is worrying and confirms the Rwandan authorities' fears.

The directives given to our military advisors are to help the national unity government to give the Rwandan forces back an operational capacity, as they had been severely decimated by the assailants' firepower.

Except for the particular order tied to our nationals' security, these directives exclude all direct French participation in the confrontations, that is to say, any active presence in the combat zone and any direct use of weaponry.

Our logistical aid is being set up, but the complete training of Rwandan soldiers with the new materials will take several weeks.

The Defense Ministry expresses its worry and preoccupation over the situation in RWANDA.

The Admiral LANXADE believes that, staying within the range of the aforementioned directives, the way to gain a delay necessary for the instruction of the Rwandan army is to authorize, subject to the most extreme discretion and with prior consent, case by case, of the Chief of the Defense Staff, a temporary operational aid of a few advisors from the Chiefs of Staff, and thereby from the units who recently received new materials.

The previous strict directives could also be confirmed, but then there would be no guarantee that the Rwandan forces, though experienced, would hold under RPF pressure until July 10.

Could you let me know your decision?

General QUESNOT