

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Paris, January 30th, 1991

Mr. President,

As I reminded you during our last telephone conversation, I have been following the development of the situation in Rwanda attentively since October 1st of last year. I am deeply preoccupied by the harmful consequences that the pursuit of military action, such as the ones that occurred recently in Ruhengeri, could have for peace in the region. I would like to reassure you once again of France's support in the trials that your country is undergoing.

My country has not spared its efforts to find a peaceful solution. In this context, at the beginning of November I sent my Minister of Cooperation, Mr. Pelletier, on a goodwill mission to your country and to neighboring states worried about the problem of Rwandan refugees. As he stated and as I told you myself, a lasting solution to this conflict will be found only through a negotiated settlement and general cooperation in a spirit of dialogue and openness.

.../...

His Excellency General Major Juvenal HABYARIMANA
President of the Republic of Rwanda

.../...

In this regard, it seems to me three conditions must be met: non-intervention of neighboring states and direct or indirect backing of actions directed against Rwanda; the opening of a direct dialogue with all component parts of the nation in a spirit of reconciliation and the advent of a state of law that respects human rights; and the resettling, as fast as possible, of the refugees, through the holding of a regional conference on the subject, under the auspices of the CUA, with the participation of all affected states and of the HCR.

Responding to the arguments you have made, I have decided, during this period while the policy of opening you announced is being put into place, and while the conference on the refugees is being prepared for, to maintain, provisionally, and for a length of time bound to the

situation's development, the French military company sent to Kigali last October and charged with assuring the security and protection of French nationals.

I wish you success in your efforts in favor of democracy and for the return of peace.

Please accept, Mr. President, my highest regards and best wishes. In friendship,

François Mitterand