

DT Kigali, October 7, 1990, Situation in Rwanda

Object: Situation in Rwanda. –

The phone call I just received and which was the subject of the DT 510 indicates that President Habyarimana feels he can no longer handle the situation on his own. The aggression he faces can be considered as foreign to the extent that it comes from a neighboring country that provides military equipment and parts of the troops.

On the other hand, this aggression rests on a political project of national unity of Hutus and Tutsis that would undoubtedly turn into domination of Tutsis. However, such project has benefited in the past few months from the discontent in Rwanda towards what many consider to be the monopolistic power of the Bashiru of Gisenyi (on this, see my DT 447 dated September 5, 1990).

Political choice is crucial for Western powers that aid Rwanda, in particular Belgium and France.

Either both countries emphasize the foreign aspect of the aggression, in which case increasing military involvement on the ground is necessary to face it.

Or they decide to emphasize internal support in favor of this movement, even though it was only able to develop with the help of Uganda, and even though it must be expected that after the initial phase of apparent national unity, Tutsis will seize power for themselves or at least the half-blood dominating class which I referred to in my DT earlier.

Should that second option prevail, tricky negotiations and military pressures would be necessary to guarantee the security of European nationals, keeping in mind that the chaos created by invaders could be followed by chaos from a Rwandan army feeling abandoned.