

– VERBATIM –

from the 6 pm meeting on Wednesday, January 23 at the Elysée Palace

PARTICIPANTS –

President of the Republic – Mr. ROCARD – Mr. DUMAS – Mr. JOXE – Mr. CHEVENEMENT – General SCHMITT – General FORRAY – Admiral COATANEA – Prefect FOUGIER – Mr. BIANCO – Admiral LANXADE – Mr. VEDRINE – General MONCHAL – General MENU –

SECTION ON RWANDA:

DEFENSE MINISTER – Situation in RWANDA

I have found that certain Europeans have moved back to RUHENGERI, a very dangerous city, because our troops are present; people are taking risks and it's our troops that have to come to their aid; whence our presence...

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

These are normal circumstances!

The nature of the conflict is indiscernible, UGANDA's role is ambiguous.

The Ugandan Tutsis are moving to conquer RWANDA, it's worrying.

I would like it if we made contact with UGANDA. It's not in our interest for the Rwandan border to yield. If it's to do with tribal battles we say nothing; if it's an aggression we have to intervene and rescue the French people held by the Tutsis. I had a telephone conversation with President HABYARIMANA.

CEMP

Forty of the surrounded Europeans in RUHENGERI are French aid workers present on the orders of their administration.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

We are authorized to intervene to liberate them.

CEMP

One hundred French troops are committed to this action. We let the Rwandans try to get the rebels to leave and we retrieve our citizens.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

We cannot limit our presence.

We are at the edge of the English-speaking front. UGANDA cannot just do as it pleases. We must tell President MUSEVENI: it's not normal that the Tutsi minority wants to impose its rule over the Hutu majority...

Until tomorrow at 6 pm.