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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

11/25/97

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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DECL: OADR

TO: The Acting Secretary

THROUGH: P - Mr. Tarnoff

FROM: AF - George E. Moose

SUBJECT: Update on U.S. Response to the Crisis in Rwanda

SUMMARY

Since the Rwandan crisis began in early April, we have pursued a coordinated strategy aimed at: stopping the massacres; achieving a durable cease-fire; returning the parties to the negotiating table; containing the conflict; and relaunching humanitarian relief efforts. Principal actions taken to date are summarized below. (This is an updated version of an earlier, April 26 memorandum. New, expanded, or updated items are preceded by an asterisk.)

DISCUSSION

In an effort to achieve the above-stated goals, we have already taken the following actions and have instituted a daily interagency meeting on Rwanda to coordinate our numerous initiatives:

Diplomatic Pressure on Rwandans

- o We convoked both the Rwandan Ambassador and the local RPF (rebel) representative and told them we want an end to the killings, an immediate cease-fire, and a resumption of talks aimed at implementing the Arusha peace accord.
- * We have contacted senior Rwandan military leaders (by phone) and interim government officials (by phone and via diplomatic channels), stressing in the bluntest possible terms that the killings must stop, and that Hutu military leaders and hardline politicians must pressure the militias/gangs to end the bloodshed.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

- * We refused to receive the interim government's Foreign Minister and a Hutu extremist official in Washington. We instructed our Embassy in Paris to deny their diplomatic visa applications and to deliver a stern message that we want the killings to stop now.
- * We have made direct interventions with GOR and RPF officials, in Washington, New York, Kampala, Paris, and Kigali (by phone), urging implementation of an immediate unconditional cease-fire, both to end inter-military fighting and to reduce pressure within Rwanda which is contributing to the activities of militia forces.

Mobilizing Regional Players and other Interested Governments

- * HA A/S Shattuck is traveling to the region to urge the OAU and Rwanda's neighbors to continue assisting in brokering a cease-fire and restarting negotiations.
- o We initiated a demarche by our Embassy in Dar Es Salaam to the Tanzanian Government to reconvene the Arusha talks. A few days later, the Tanzanians did just that. We have identified possible sources of funding to help defray the cost of the talks.
- o We sent an observer to Arusha for talks that were to convene April 23. Transport problems and missed signals prevented the Rwandan government delegation from attending, and the talks were postponed. We intend to send an observer when talks convene, and we have sent guidance on our strategy for the talks.
- o We instructed Embassies Paris, Brussels, Bonn, Addis Ababa, Kampala, Dar Es Salaam and other capitals to share our strategy with host governments and the OAU. All major players agree on the goals, and other governments are joining the U.S. in applying appropriate pressure.
- o We have scheduled a meeting between A/S Moose and the French and Belgian Ambassadors to obtain their reaction to our strategy on Rwanda and Burundi.
- o We have repeatedly used our Embassy in Kampala to urge the Ugandan Government to put pressure on the RPF to agree to a cease-fire. In response, the Ugandans have played a very constructive role in bringing the two sides together and laying the groundwork for a cease-fire agreement.
- o We have instructed Embassies Kampala and Kinshasa to demarche Uganda and Zaire to assure that no more weapons filter across the Rwandan border.

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- 3 -

UN Efforts

- * We have instructed USUN to pursue a Security Council resolution calling for, inter alia:
 - establishment of "humanitarian enclaves" to provide for security of refugees/displaced gathering in border areas;
 - an arms embargo against Rwanda;
 - dispatch of the UN Human Rights Commissioner and a supporting team to investigate violations of international humanitarian law. (UNHRC officials plan to travel to Burundi and we are urging that they go also to Rwanda.)
- o We pushed for approval of the strong UN Security Council Presidential statement, agreed to April 29, which demands the interim government and RPF take effective measures to prevent any attacks on civilians. The statement condemns the "breaches of international humanitarian law" and recalls that killings of an ethnic group with the intention of destroying such a group constitutes a crime punishable under international law.
- o The U.S. joined the Security Council in approving retention of a small UN peacekeeping presence in Rwanda and revising its mandate to allow it to help broker a new cease-fire and facilitate humanitarian relief efforts.

Bolstering Burundi

- o We are continuing to follow the security situation in Burundi very closely. In an effort to bolster Burundi, we sent high level messages from the President, Secretary, and others thanking the Burundians for assisting in the Rwanda evacuation and are sending A/S Shattuck to reinforce our support.
- o We have prepared a multilateral strategy on Burundi, which we are coordinating with the French, Belgians, and others.

Public Diplomacy

- o The White House and the Department have together issued five press statements repeating our calls for an end to the killings, an immediate cease-fire, and resumption of peace talks. DAS Bushnell and Ambassador Rawson and his predecessor, Ambassador Flaten, have presented our position in the national, local, and international media.
- o We prepared a statement on Rwanda which President Clinton read on the radio on April 30. We will demarche appropriate governments to make similar statements.

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- 4 -

Humanitarian Relief

- * We have initiated a weekly meeting with appropriate State and AID offices to review and respond to humanitarian aid needs. This group is making contingency plans to provide extensive humanitarian relief to refugees and displaced persons once delivery of relief becomes feasible.

- * We are requesting Presidential authorization to drawdown \$5 million from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for emergency relief to Rwandan and Burundi refugees and returnees. RP is also reviewing its accounts to come up with an additional \$10 million in assistance. These contributions would be in addition to the \$5 million drawdown authorized in December for Burundi refugee needs.

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