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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

April 26, 1994

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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DECL: OADR

S/S

TO: The Acting Secretary  
FROM: AF - Prudence Bushnell, Acting  
SUBJECT: 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, ending the fighting, and returning the parties to the negotiating table. Our efforts are continuing, and we have convened an interagency meeting today to build on those efforts.

DISCUSSION

At the time we were completing our successful evacuation of Americans from Rwanda, we initiated a coordinated strategy to respond to the political-military crisis. Our main goals are to:

- o Stop the politically and ethnically motivated massacres.
- o Achieve an immediate and enduring cease-fire.
- o Push the parties to resume negotiations within the framework of the Arusha peace process.
- o Prevent the violence from spreading, particularly to Burundi.
- o Seek to relaunch humanitarian relief efforts.

In an effort to achieve these goals, we have already taken the following actions:

- 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 made similar telephone demarches to various Rwandan officials.

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*Rwanda Briefing Paper for June 1994*

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- o The White House and the Department have together issued four press statements repeating these points publicly. DAS Bushnell and Ambassador Rawson and his predecessor, Ambassador Flaten, have presented our position in the national, local, and international media.
- 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 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.
- 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 are examining 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 one week. Our observer will be on hand, and we have sent guidance on our strategy for the talks.
- o We instructed Embassies Paris, Brussels, Addis Ababa, Kampala, and Dar Es Salaam to share our strategy with host governments and the OAU. All major players agree on the goals.
- o We are continuing to follow the security situation in Burundi very closely. In an effort to bolster Burundi, we sent high level messages thanking the Burundians for assisting in the Rwanda evacuation and dispatched our politico-military advisor (and Arusha observer) to reinforce the message.
- o We have prepared a multilateral strategy on Burundi, which we are coordinating with the French, Belgians, and others.
- o We have initiated a weekly meeting with appropriate State and AID offices to review and respond to humanitarian aid needs.

We intend to build on these efforts and have scheduled an interagency meeting today to review our strategy and discuss additional actions that might be taken. At the same time, we must recognize that our ability to influence events in Rwanda is limited and, in the end, only the Rwandans themselves can bring peace to their country.

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