

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

08-Apr-1994 15:16 EDT

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE BELOW

FROM: Donald K. Steinberg
(STEINBERG)

SUBJECT: Rwanda Update (3 p.m.)

Things have calmed somewhat in Rwanda as night has fallen. The Ambassador's residence is secure, although the 200 Rwandans remain in the garage/parking area (apparently inside the wall). Unfortunately, it appears that the five UNAMIR soldiers have left. UNAMIR reports that they are having some problems with their own security. At the mission school in Mudendi, things have also calmed somewhat. Still no injuries to Americans.

On the positive side, the Embassy reports that the a General Ndlianya has assumed control of the military and is negotiating with the UNAMIR commander and the RPF at an undisclosed site. The Embassy knows Ndlianya and believes him to be serious and professional, but acknowledges that it is hard to say how seriously we should take this information, given the chaos that continues to reign. Also, there are rumors that a new head of government is about to be announced and that the remaining Ministers have met.

There is a report that the Belgians and French views are gelling around having the French troops out of Bangui go in to secure the airport and the Belgians troops arrange the evacuation of the expatriate community. The Belgian Prime Minister has apparently called for a "qualitative improvement" in the equipment of his nation's peacekeepers -- the thought is that if a convoy goes in overland from Burundi to evacuate the expatriates, it should also take in additional arms for the peacekeepers. The Belgians are also apparently pushing strongly for the nationalization of the UNAMIR troops.

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