

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

03-May-1994 23:10 EDT

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE BELOW

FROM: Donald K. Steinberg  
(STEINBERG)

SUBJECT: \*\*URGENT FOR RICE\*\* Rwanda TPS

Susan:

Below is a draft E-mail for Tony's lunch with Christopher and Perry. I'd appreciate your reactions ASAP: it has to go to Tony immediately. Thanks.

Rwanda

Background

The situation in Rwanda continues to deteriorate, with reliable reports of at least 200,000 deaths and displacement of at least half a million people in largely communal violence. The situation combines ethnic civil war and hardline Hutus killing Tutsis and "sympathetic" Hutus behind Government lines. Fighting has reached a tentative stalemate, although it continues to rage. The Government (RGF) is calling for UN or OAU intervention, while the RPF distrusts the UN (and especially its representative Booh-Booh) and believes a ceasefire would only allow the RGF to continue massacres in territory it controls. The mass flows of refugees towards Tanzania and other border areas continue: there are at least 250,000 in empty fields on the Tanzanian border. Humanitarian relief is moving into the region slowly, and there is real fear of famine and disease.

Peace talks in Arusha and elsewhere, which we asked President Mwinyi to host, have not gotten off the ground as RPF and Government forces refuse to meet. Our ambassadors in Tanzania and Uganda are deeply involved in these efforts.

Meanwhile, the situation in Burundi remains strangely calm but tense. A coup attempt was nipped in the bud last week, but the largely Tutsi government is having problems in disarming Hutu militia, who fear a potential massacre if they are left unarmed. Renewed widespread communal violence is clearly a strong possibility.

Our Response

We have identified five key goals for the international effort in

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Rwanda: stop the on-going massacres, achieve an RPF/RGF ceasefire, resume negotiations under the Arusha Framework, prevent the violence from spreading to neighboring states (especially Burundi) and ensure humanitarian assistance.

Among the steps we've taken are Presidential statements radioed into Rwanda, \$15 million in emergency humanitarian relief, sending A/S Shattuck and Ambassador Rawson to the region, urging Presidents Mwinzi and Museveni to continue to broker peace and direct conversations with the RPF and Rwandan Government forces.

At the UN, we are pushing for an arms embargo; asking the UN to work with the OAU to protect refugees on both sides of the borders, backed by external support; and urging the Human Rights Commissioner to go to the region (including Rwanda) to investigate the massacres.

USUN is pursuing this initiative, but raises the key question: what degree of financial, logistical and/or material support are we prepared to provide for UN or OAU actions. This questions hinges, of course, on what kind of mission we are talking about. Boutros Ghali has called on the international community to assemble a force to act in the region, although it is unclear what he is proposing. In his meeting with Sandy yesterday, Kofi Anan thought that the only way to take "robust" action would be to use African troops, Belgian/French assets and U.S. airlift. The OAU continues to talk about an emergency foreign ministers meeting to discuss its role in Rwandan peacekeeping, but it remains unscheduled.

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