

SECRET/NO DIS**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**
Operations Center**DRAFT****DRAFT****MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION****DATE:** Thursday, June 16, 1994**TIME:** 1915 EDT**PARTICIPANTS:** The Deputy Secretary and French FM Chief of Staff de Villepin**SUBJECT:** French Proposal for Intervention in Rwanda

The Deputy Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, telephoned the Quai d'Orsay to return Foreign Minister Juppe's call. In Juppe's absence, the Deputy Secretary spoke with Juppe's Chief of Staff, de Villepin.

De Villepin told the Deputy Secretary that Juppe wanted to discuss the French proposal to intervene militarily in Rwanda. De Villepin said the French are concerned that the massacres in Rwanda are continuing while the international community attempts to mobilize an expanded UNAMIR force. He said UNSYG Boutros-Ghali has been trying everything possible to expand the force quickly, but the French anticipate that this will not occur for several weeks, and that the cease-fire which the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and interim GOR announced in Tunis June 15 will not be implemented.

De Villepin said that, given this context, the GOF feels it is not possible to wait any longer to deploy a force in Rwanda to stop the killing. France is seeking to fill the gap until the expanded UNAMIR force being assembled can arrive in Rwanda. Therefore, France is proposing to provide troops for immediate deployment, with the cooperation of the major EU nations, African nations, and any other countries which wish to assist or participate, including the U.S. The force would go within the framework and with the support of the UN. De Villepin stated that Boutros-Ghali has signaled his support for this initiative. The French see a number of possible options for securing the UN's explicit approval, such as through a UNSC resolution, or through a letter from Boutros-Ghali to the President of the UNSC.

De Villepin said that this proposal is not rigid, and can evolve as necessary in its implementation. He stressed that the goal is to stop the violence immediately and that this intervention would be for the limited time necessary to fill the gap until the arrival of the expanded UNAMIR force. Countries wishing to participate could contribute men, materiel, logistical support, or even humanitarian aid. A maximum of 2,000 men are needed, with a first stage deployment of 500 troops to go into the areas where the worst massacres are occurring, and to begin evacuating those people most at risk to the countries bordering Rwanda.

SECRET/NO DIS
DECL: OADRDECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E. O. 13526

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

SECRET/NO DIS

De Villepin asked the Deputy Secretary what the U.S. positions are on the situation in Rwanda in general, and the French proposal in particular.

The Deputy Secretary thanked de Villepin for his clear presentation of the French proposal. He said the U.S. shares the GOF's outrage, anguish, and impatience over the situation in Rwanda, and agrees that the international community must react quickly. The Deputy Secretary said the U.S. is doing everything possible to expedite the deployment of the expanded UNAMIR force, and gave as an example the preparations for delivery of 50 armored personnel carriers, which may start arriving in Rwanda as soon as June 22.

E.O. 13526, 1.4(d)

De Villepin stated that the GOF contacted both parties on June 16 to make clear that France has no political agenda, and was proposing this intervention on purely humanitarian grounds. The Deputy Secretary then asked how soon the GOF thought troops could be on the ground under this proposal. De Villepin said deployment by June 20 or 22 is feasible; he thought the urgent dispatch of the troops was of the greatest importance. On the subject of the UN, de Villepin repeated that it is imperative to make this intervention a coordinated mission sanctioned by the UNSC, and said that France feels it is on the same wavelength as Boutros-Ghali.

The Deputy Secretary asked which nations, particularly African nations, might be willing to participate. De Villepin answered that the GOF was in contact with Senegal, Benin, and Ghana, which appeared ready to contribute troops; he felt that, based on discussions France had at the OAU summit in Tunis, there would not be a problem in getting African support. E.O. 13526, 1.4(d)

E.O. 13526, 1.4(d)

France and the developing nations consider the situation nothing less than horrendous, and are ready to intervene to stop the carnage.

The Deputy Secretary said he appreciated de Villepin's position, and promised to pass the information on to the Secretary, in order that the Department may respond to Paris in full by early June 17. De Villepin expressed his thanks, and hoped the U.S. would be able to help with coordination in the UN, as well as to participate in the intervention.

The call concluded at 1731 EDT.

Drafted:MPZorick

Approved:GNSibley

SECRET/NO DIS
DECL: OADR

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY