



May 2014

Dear Participants,

On behalf of the organizers, the National Security Archive is pleased to present this document reader, intended to facilitate discussions at our conference in June on “International Decision-Making in the Age of Genocide: Rwanda 1990-1994,” co-sponsored by the Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Hague Institute for Global Justice. The volume consists of declassified documents from the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Czech Republic, French, and Rwandan governments, as well as documentation from the United Nations. The documents were obtained through Freedom of Information requests, and various online and personal archival collections. Many of these documents are being published here for the first time.

The organization and content of the materials is guided by our conference structure. The 3 main sections track thematically with the 3 sessions, along with the conference agenda. For ease of location, all pages have been numbered according to section (e.g. 1-34, 3-12).

To help guide you through the collection, an annotated document list provides brief summaries for each document. The chronology is useful for pinpointing key events and decisions from all sides starting in 1990 through the end of the genocide in July 1994.

A few words about the methodology

Since the late 1980's the National Security Archive has co-sponsored over 60 conferences using the “critical oral history” methodology developed by Jim Blight and Janet Lang ranging from topics such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Iran-Iraq War, and the US war in Vietnam, among others. The critical oral history methodology is one which “involves the simultaneous interaction, in a conference setting, of oral testimony, declassified documents, and scholarly analysis.”¹ The methodology can produce startlingly new insights and revelations.

This conference and briefing book would not have been possible without the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Special thanks to the document sleuths Michael Dobbs and Emily Willard whose FOIA requests and archival digging produced the enclosed extraordinary primary sources.

Sincerely,

Tom Blanton
Director
National Security Archive

¹ Blight, James G. et al. *Becoming Enemies: U.S.-Iran Relations and the Iran-Iraq War, 1979-1988*. New York: Rowman & Little Field Publishers, Inc.