

6-16-1994

### Press Guidance- Thursday, June 16, 1994

US Embassy Rwanda

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY  
ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY  
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TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1994

1. BELOW IS IO, PRM AND AF PRESS GUIDANCE ON RWANDA, AND  
A STATEMENT ON ZAIRE.

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2. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: CURRENT SITUATION  
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Q: PLEASE PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION ON THE  
GROUND IN RWANDA.

A: UN SOURCES REPORT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF FIGHTING  
IN THE CENTER OF KIGALI TODAY BETWEEN RPF AND GOVERNMENT  
FORCES.

A UNAMIR MILITARY OBSERVER FROM URUGUAY WAS KILLED AND  
ANOTHER FROM BANGLADESH WAS WOUNDED YESTERDAY WHILE ON  
PATROL NORTHWEST OF KIGALI. UNAMIR HAS NO FURTHER DETAILS  
AT THIS TIME.

EFFORTS TO RESUME CEASE-FIRE TALKS IN KIGALI UNDER UNAMIR  
AUSPICES REMAIN SUSPENDED.

3. IO PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: FRENCH INTERVENING  
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Q: CAN YOU PROVIDE A READOUT ON THE P-5 CONSULTATIONS ON  
RWANDA YESTERDAY? WHAT DID THE FRENCH TELL US REGARDING  
THEIR CONDITIONS FOR DEPLOYING TROOPS?

A: THE FRENCH DID DISCUSS THEIR IDEAS FOR SENDING TROOPS  
TO RWANDA AT A PERM 5 SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

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YESTERDAY. THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING.

LIKE THE FRENCH AND THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WE  
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ARE OUTRAGED AND ANGUISHED BY THE CONTINUED VIOLENCE AND  
MASS MURDER THAT IS OCCURRING IN RWANDA.

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE IDEA OF AN EARLY DEPLOYMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL FORCES, INCLUDING FRENCH FORCES, TO HELP PUT  
AN END TO THE ATROCITIES IN RWANDA. WE ARE ACCELERATING  
OUR OWN EFFORTS TO EQUIP NEW UN FORCES SCHEDULED TO GO  
THERE.

WE BELIEVE THAT ANY INTERVENTION SHOULD BE A MULTILATERAL  
EFFORT COORDINATED WITH THE UN AND HAVING THE SANCTION OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE FRENCH AND OTHERS IN NEW  
YORK TO THIS END.

Q: WHAT ARE WE DOING TO SUPPORT UN FORCES SCHEDULED TO GO  
TO RWANDA?

A: WE HAVE COMPLETED THE LEASE OF 50 ARMORED PERSONNEL  
CARRIERS AND HOPE TO START DELIVERY NEXT WEEK.

WE ARE LOOKING AT EQUIPMENT NEEDS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE  
GHANAIAN BATTALION, WHICH WE ARE TRYING TO GET ON THE  
GROUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE HOPE OTHERS CAN ALSO ASSIST WITH THIS URGENT EFFORT.

4. PRM PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: RIOT AT REFUGEE CAMP  
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Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION AT THE BENACO REFUGEE CAMP IN  
TANZANIA?

A: ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 15, ABOUT 5,000 RWANDAN  
REFUGEES AT BENACO CAMP IN NORTHWESTERN TANZANIA PROTESTED  
UNHCR'S (UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES)  
PLANNED TRANSFER OF SEVERAL OF THEIR LEADERS TO ANOTHER  
CAMP.

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TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES HAD EARLIER RELEASED 14 HUTU LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN IN THEIR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY SINCE EARLY MAY, WITHOUT NOTIFYING UNHCR. UNHCR DID NOT WANT THESE LEADERS TO GO TO BENACO CAMP, AS SOME OF THEM ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN RWANDA.

ONE OF THE LEADERS, FORMER MAYOR AND WELL-KNOWN HUTU LEADER JEAN BAPTISTE GATETE, WENT TO BENACO AND JOINED REFUGEES FROM HIS AREA. HE INCITED AN ANGRY MOB OF SUPPORTERS, WHO THREATENED FOREIGN AID WORKERS IN CAMP.

ABOUT 50 TANZANIAN POLICE STATIONED AT THE CAMP TRIED TO BREAK UP THE MOB, BUT FAILED AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDREW. A FEW HOURS LATER, THE CROWD DISPERSED AND THE AID WORKERS LEFT BENACO CAMP.

NO ONE WAS HURT, BUT MOST OF THE RELIEF AGENCIES WORKING IN CAMP EVACUATED THEIR WORKERS AND SUSPENDED THEIR RELIEF WORK.

Q: WHEN WILL RELIEF WORK RESUME?

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A: REFUGEE LEADERS HAVE ASSURED UNHCR THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, UNHCR AND SEVERAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ORDERED THEIR STAFF TO STAY AWAY FROM THE CAMP UNTIL THE ISSUE OF SECURITY IS RESOLVED. LIMITED FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE TODAY TO BE SUPERVISED BY ORGANIZATIONS STILL PRESENT IN THE CAMP.

5. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: INTERVENING  
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Q: WHAT ABOUT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR INTERVENTION/

A: SINCE THE RWANDA CRISIS BEGAN ON APRIL 6, THE U.S. HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE SENSELESS KILLING IN RWANDA. WE SHARE THE ANGUISH AND OUTRAGE OF

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OVER THE CONTINUED CARNAGE IN RWANDA AND UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE TO INTERVENE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

WE THEREFORE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. WE UNDERSTAND FRANCE IS SEEKING UN BACKING FOR THIS MOVE.

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WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ULTIMATELY THE BEST COURSE FOR SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTION IN RWANDA IS THAT OUTLINED IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 918 AND 925, WHICH CALL FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF EXPANDED UNAMIR FORCES OF UP TO 5,500 TROOPS. THE FRENCH INITIATIVE WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH THAT PLAN.

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WE CONTINUE TO DISCUSS WITH FRANCE AND OTHER SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS THE BEST WAY THAT WE OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES, AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OAU, CAN MOVE QUICKLY TO STOP THE KILLINGS IN RWANDA, BRING ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE, AND END THE MINDLESS VIOLENCE AND CARNAGE WHICH IS ENGULFING THE COUNTRY.

Q: WHEN DID WE LEARN OF THE FRENCH INITIATIVE?

A: THE FRENCH BRIEFED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS GEORGE MOOSE REGARDING THE PLAN YESTERDAY IN FARIS. ALSO, DEPUTY SECRETARY STROBE TALBOT SPOKE BY PHONE WITH THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY REGARDING THE PLAN YESTERDAY.

Q: YOU HAVE SAID THE U.S. HAS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ACTS OF GENOCIDE HAVE OCCURRED IN RWANDA. WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

A: THE U.S. AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO PUT A STOP TO THE KILLINGS AND ACHIEVE A CEASE-FIRE IN RWANDA.

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVED EXPANSION OF UNAMIR TO 5,500 TROOPS TO HELP PROTECT THREATENED CIVILIAN POPULATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS.

WE HAVE PROVIDED DOLLARS 94 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID SINCE EARLY APRIL, AND DOLLARS 120 MILLION SINCE OCTOBER.

50 APC'S HAVE BEEN LEASED TO THE UN TO SPEED UP ARRIVAL OF  
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THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF THE ENLARGED FORCE. WE HOPE TO HAVE THE APC'S DELIVERED AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK.

WE HAVE DISPATCHED AN INTER-AGENCY TEAM, LED BY AMBASSADOR

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RAWSON, TO THE REGION TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF REGIONAL LEADERS IN OUR EFFORTS TO PRESSURE THE WARRING PARTIES TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND TO FACILITATE RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF THE EXPANDED UNAMIR FORCE.

WE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UNHRC), WHICH RESULTED IN THE AFFOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR TO INVESTIGATE THE ATROCITIES. HE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A TEAM OF HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD OFFICERS. HE ARRIVED IN KIGALI YESTERDAY.

THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S MANDATE IS TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN RWANDA, INCLUDING ACTS OF GENOCIDE, AND TO REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO THE UNHRC BY THE END OF JUNE. ONCE THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR COMPLETES THIS REPORT, WE WILL WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION.

6. STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN - ZAIRE: KENGO ELECTION  
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THE UNITED STATES TAKES NOTE OF THE ELECTION JUNE 14 OF A PRIME MINISTER FROM THE OPPOSITION MR. KENGO WA DONDO, BY ZAIRE'S HIGH COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC-PARLIAMENT OF TRANSITION (HCR-PT).

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WE HOPE THAT THIS ACTION BY THE HCR-FT WILL LEAD TO THE FORMATION OF A CREDIBLE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-EXCLUSION, WHICH CAN UNDERTAKE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE A PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE SERIOUS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND FINANCIAL CRISES UNDERMINING THE ZAIRIAN STATE, AND WHICH CAN MOVE THE COUNTRY FORWARD TO FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.

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